# Wabash Plain Dealer

WabashPlainDealer.com

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**WabashPD WabashPlainDealer** 

> THURSDAY **DECEMBER 26, 2019**

\$2 As low as 86¢ with a paid subscription

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.







### **Plain Dealer's new** website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabash plaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplain dealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

### **Wabash Plain Dealer's** new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

### **BMV** announces holiday hours

Branches will resume regularly scheduled business hours on Thursday, Dec. 26. Also, branches will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday. All branches will resume regularly scheduled business hours beginning Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020. For a complete list of branch locations and hours, to complete an online transaction, or to find a 24-hour BMV Connect kiosk near you visit IN.gov/BMV.

### **Low Impact Fitness** classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

### **Cancer care** advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

See PULSE / Page A2

### Inside

Classified, B5 Sports, B1 Crossword, B4 Viewpoint, A4



# New device along Wabash River to track water quality

Super gage to provide real-time, continuous measurements

**BY ROB BURGESS** 

Sitting atop a bridge span-New Harmony is a small contraption producing big data. It's the super gage, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and its partners are data useful for improving water quality in Indiana's

communication.

The gage, an invention of ning the Wabash River in the United States Geological Survey (USGS), will provide real-time, continuous measurements of physical and chemical water characteristics every 15 minutes,

At nearly 500 miles long, largest river, according to the Wabash River spans contributing to the hypoxic

and also drains portions of Illinois and Ohio. With 4,400,000 Hoosiers living within its watershed, the Chip Sutton, director of Wabash and its tributaries, including the Tippecanoe and White Rivers, provide drinking water for 72 percent of Indiana's counties.

The Wabash River also sends a disproportionate amount of nitrogen and phosphorus runoff and sedicounting on it to provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a ment down toward the Mississippi River and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico,

the size of Delaware where nothing can survive. In fact, according to USGS, the Wabash is one of the leading contributors of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Gulf of Mexico.

Dealer request on Monday, Sutton stated they do not yet have data specific to Wabash County's output of nitrogen and phosphorus runoff and sediment. However, Sutton stated they are working to collect such information.

According to Mike Dunn,

the entire state of Indiana Dead Zone, an area about TNC's director of freshwater conservation in Indiana, this past summer, the Indiana State Dept of Agriculture (ISDA), who leads the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy, initiated the Indiana Science Assessment. This In response to a Plain assessment will convene the research community to better quantify the nutrients leaving the state via the exit points - including Wabash, Kankakee, Iroquois, Maumee and St. Marys rivers and then hone in on the

See TRACKING / Page A2

# FISH of Wabash receives \$5K donation



PHOTO PROVIDED

DONATION: Gary Wilson, FISH of Wabash County director, right, accepts the donation.

Ceres Solutions, Land O'Lakes cooperatives' funds contribute to hunger relief

### **BY ROB BURGESS**

Nearly \$50,000 in charitable donations has been presented to local food banks and pantries just this season alone thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of local residents production agriculture, according to Laurel Mann, brand manager for Ceres Solutions Cooperative.

The donations were given through Ceres Sowere made possible by local farmers and customers last year.

One of the programs Michigan.

which benefited from these donations was FISH (Friends in Service Here) of Wabash, who received a

\$5,000 donation. "The FISH donation was \$5,000 total because Ceres Solutions gave \$2,500 and we asked our partners at who make their living in Land O' Lakes Cooperative to match it on FISH's behalf," stated Mann, in response to a Plain Dealer request Monday. "We ask that they use the funds for local hunger relief ... espelutions Cooperative, and cially where the program may benefit children."

Ceres Solutions Cooperwho have done business ative, based in Crawfordswith the company in the ville, serves more than 37 counties in Indiana and

Every year, the company strives to give back in each local communities through several core initiatives: FFA, 4-H, Soil and Water Conservation, academic scholarship and alleviating hunger.

Many charitable donations made by Ceres qualify for a dollar-for-dollar match from regional partner Land O'Lakes Cooperative, based in Minnesota.

"In celebration of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Ceres Solutions employees and farmer-directors have had the privilege of presenting donation checks that will be invested right here to benefit local families re- visit www.ceres.coop.

cently," stated Mann.

Other organizations which have received funds include Food Finders in Lafayette, Terre Haute Catholic Charities, Foodbank of Northern Indiana in South Bend, Community Harvest Foodbank North East in Fort Wayne, Third Phase in Noblesville, Feeding America West Michigan, and the McBain Backpack Program in Falmouth, Michigan.

A donation was also made to Feed My Starving Children, which is a global ministry local employees, farmers and directors sup-

For more information,

## ISP to increase patrols over the holidays

Operation CARE is a federallyfunded program

### **Staff Report**

Millions of Americans will be traveling over this Christmas and New Year's holiday period, with the majority traveling by automobile. What this means for Hoosiers is more traffic on the highways. To help ensure the safety of all motorists, the Indiana State Police will be participating in Operation Combined Accident Reduction Effort (CARE) through

Thursday, Jan. 2. Operation CARE is a federally funded program that allows additional troopers to patrol Hoosier roadways looking for drivers that are driving aggressively or impaired.

ISP encourages motorists to follow these safety rules:

- When planning to travel, make sure you are well-rested, as a fatigued driver is a dangerous driver.
- Increase your following distance. Remember the 2-second rule.
- Watch for slowed or stopped traffic when approaching construction zones or crash sites.
- Leave a car length between you and the vehicle in front of you in stopped traffic. Watch approaching traffic in your mirror and be prepared to take evasive action.
- Decrease your speed according to traffic and road conditions.
- Beware of bridges, overand intersections passes where ice tends to form

See CARE / Page A2

# Give the gift of life this holiday season

Two blood donation opportunities scheduled in Wabash County

### Staff Report

During this season of giving, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors winter weather often lead to give the gift of life to to a decline in blood dohelp ensure patients don't nations. Across the U.S., have to worry about the 37 blood drives have alavailability of blood this ready been canceled since winter. Blood and platelet Dec. 1, resulting in more

donations of all types are needed, especially type O. Holiday travel and severe

donations. However, a patient's need for lifesaving treatment doesn't take a vacation or stop for nasty weather.

Blood and platelets are needed every day for those receiving treatment for cancer and leukemia, accident and burn victims and surgical patients, among others.

As a special thank you for

than 1,000 uncollected being the lifeline for patients this holiday season, those who come out to give blood or platelets with the Red Cross through Jan. 5 will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

To schedule an appointment to donate, download the free Red Cross Blood

Donor App, visit Red

CrossBlood.org, call 800-

RED CROSS (800-733-

Echo device. In Wabash County, the Red Cross has scheduled

2767) or enable the Blood

Donor Skill on any Alexa

blood donation opportunities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive; and from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St.

# **Pothole Christmas** tree inspires pastor to write holiday song

McCOMB, Miss. (AP) — A scraggly metal Christmas tree planted in a pothole has inspired a Mississippi minister to pen a holiday song.

One bit asks, "If a man can take a pothole and bring the whole world together, the question is what are you doing to spread the Christmas joy?"

The Rev. Leon Hitchens of Webb Chapel Church in Liberty wrote "Pothole Christmas Tree" after local radio host Fern Crossley showed him the makeshift holiday scene, the Enterprise-Jour-

nal of McComb reported.

The song celebrates John Drummond, who stuck the base of a wire Christmas tree into the traffic cone sticking out of the pothole. Neighbors decorated it with tinsel, ornaments and a large star on the top. An Associated Press account went worldwide, leading to additional coverage by Fox News.

Drivers are now going out of their way to check out the pothole and its decoration.

"I was really moved by the story," Hitchens said. "All because of the spirit

of Christmas and how Mr. Drummond took what was supposed to be a bad situation and made it for the good."

The city board said at last week's meeting that crews are repairing poles as tight finances allow, and a \$3.2 million bond issue dedicated to street paving may let the city fill others.

Though many people take down their Christmas trees by New Year's Day, it's uncertain whether the city will have the pothole fixed by

### CARE

Continued from A1

- low motorists. Turn signals when changing lanes help to eliminate road rage incidents.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is properly restrained, including making sure child safety seats are properly anchored and that

children stay securely fastened in them.

- Don't be distracted. Pull over and stop to use elecfirst during cold inclement tronic devices.
- Don't drive impaired. ■ Be courteous to your fel- Have a designated driver or use a ride-sharing service.
  - Move over and slow down for emergency and highway service vehicles.
  - Don't "hang out" in the left lane. This is one of the most common triggers for a road rage incident. Always drive in the right lane except

to pass a slower moving ve-

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, safety belt use is the most effective strategy a person can employ to prevent death and minimize injury resulting from traffic collisions. Motorists are encouraged to report aggressive or suspected impaired drivers by calling 911. Give a vehicle description, location and direction of travel.

### TRACKING Continued from A1

10 major basins to evaluate where the nutrients loadings are coming from to prioritize and focus efforts.

"This work will be occurring over the next year," stated Sutton.

Up until the super gage's

scheduled on Tuesdays

**PULSE** 

Continued from A1

Yoga classes

installation this year, conservation partners working along the Wabash River had to largely rely upon models to provide insight into the river's water quality.

What they needed was a super gage. But super gages are not cheap. A typical super gage on a major river costs several hundred thousand dollars.

"Generous funding from Nestlé Purina PetCare, which has supported TNC's work along the Wabash River for the past three years, put the super gage process into motion. Additional funding from Walton Family Foundation, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation and the ISDA secured the deal,"

stated Sutton.

### registration is requested by

### **Annual Winter**

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount

### **Red Cross blood** donation opportunity set for Dec. 27

passes are available.

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive.

### **Laketon American Legion Post offering** breakfast and lunch

The Laketon American Legion Post will be offering breakfast and lunch from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. The Blue Bird Cafe will be

### First Day Hike planned at Salamonie Lake

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services' staff for a First Day Hike at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1 at Salamonie Lake at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Meet at the interpretive center for a one-hour stroll through the woods along the moderate Tree Trail. Dress for the weather. Families and friendly dogs on leashes welcome. Advance

calling 260-468-2127.

### **Honeywell Foundation's** Bash draws near

The Annual Winter Break Bash, hosted by the Honeywell Foundation, will take place Thursday, Jan. 2 and Friday, Jan. 3 at various Honeywell Foundation venues including the Honeywell Center and Charley Creek Gardens. For more information about Winter Bash, visit the Honeywell Center website at www.honeywell center.org or call the Box Office at 260-563-1102.

### **January Salamonie Senior Luncheon set**

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Potato soup will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

# **Artists sought for**

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show from Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020 through Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. Entries will be accepted from 11 a.m. to

### **Honeywell Foundation's** art competition

Showtimes for Thursday, December 19- Thursday, December 26 All showtimes have Closed Caption

Star Wars: Episode IX- The Rise of Skywalker in 20 (PG13)
Thurs (12/19): 6:15 - Frit 6:20, 6:50, 9:25
Sat: 12:05, 3:10, 6:20, 6:50, 9:20 \* Sun-Mon: 12:05, 3:10,
6:20, 6:50
Wed: 6:20 \* Thurs: 12:25, 6:20

Star Wars: Episode IX- The Rise of Skywalker in RealD 3D (PG13) Thurs (12/19): 6:25 • Fri: 9:55 • Sat: 12:40, 3:45, 9:55 Sun- Mon: 12:40, 3:45 • Wed- Thurs:: 3:25, 9:15 <u>Little Women (PG)</u> Wed: 3:35, 6:40, 9:40 • Thurs: 12:35, 3:35, 6:40, 9:40 **Spies in Disguise (PG)**Wed: 3:55, 6:50, 9:35 • Thurs: 12:45, 3:55, 6:50, 9:35

Jumanji: The Next Level in 2D (PG13)

Thurs (12/19): 6:55 • Fri: 7:00, 9:45 Sat: 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 9:45 • Sun- Mon: 1:00, 3:55, 7:00 Wed: 4:05, 7:00, 9:55 • Thurs: 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55 Knives Out (PG13)
Thurs (12/19): 6:35 • Fri: 6:40, 9:35
Sat: 12:25, 3:25, 6:40, 9:35 • Sun- Mon: 12:25, 3:25, 6:40 Frozen II in 20 (PG)
Thurs: 6:45 • Frt: 6:30, 9:15 • Sat: 12:50, 3:35, 6:30, 9:15
Sun: 12:50, 3:35. 6:10 • Mon: 12:50, 3:35, 6:30
Wed: 3:45, 6:30, 9:25 • Thurs: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:25

Free Family Christmas Movie: Dr. Seuss's The Grinch (PG)
Sat: 10:00A Free Christmas Classic: White Christmas

For more information please call 765-460-5322 or visit us online at www.roxyperu.com



2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6. For complete guidelines visit www.honeywellcenter. org/92-county-art-show. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@Honeywell Foundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

### **Red Cross schedules** blood drive opportunity for Jan. 7, 2020

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive opportunity from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St.

### Komets game to celebrate Wabash **County March 13**

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2020 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at https:// groupmatics.events/event/ Wabashcommunity3 or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

### **Wabash Kiwanis** Club's Pancake Day returns in March

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization's largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer. com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

# Employee forced to pay for business travel

of 47°, humidity of 65%.

5-Day Weather Summary

Saturday

Scattered Rain

Sunday

Showers Likely

**Detailed Local Outlook** Today we will see cloudy skies with areas of fog, high

of 61°, humidity of 74%. South southwest wind 9 to 14

mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 40°. Southwest wind 6 to 10 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 38°. Friday, skies will be partly cloudy, high

Friday

Partly Cloudy

47 / 35

. 5:26 p.m.

Last

**Sun and Moon** 

Full

Tomorrow's sunrise ...... 8:11 a.m.

Today's sunset .....

First

Cole

Sense &

Sensitivity

it. Basically, they provide us with a tiny **Harriette** per diem. Worse than that, though, is that on my

third trip out, I discovered that my comcredit pany didn't card work because the company hadn't paid

the bill. I ended up having to use my personal credit card. I am still waiting to be reimbursed. How can I address this with my boss? I need this job, but I can't afford to fund my travel. I'm on the road several times a month. What can I say or do to correct this? - Can't Float the Job

DEAR CAN'T FLOAT THE JOB: Request a private meeting with your boss to explain the situation. Be honest and state that you cannot afford to pay for your travel and be reimbursed at a later time. Point out how frequent the travel is for your company. Be strong and clear when you tell your boss how enthusiastic you are about being on the road and doing a good job, but complete the thought by asking for the credit card debt to be handled so that you are able to go back out there. You may want to ask for your room to be pre-paid in the future so that you avoid having the

same problem. **DEÂR HARRIETTE:** I saw your advice to the lady who wanted to quit wearing high heels, and I thought it was very good advice. Unfortunately, it is too late for me. I, too, am short and started wearing 5- or 6-inch stiletto heels every day at 18. I worked in retail for many, many years and was on my feet all day long in my heels.

I am now 56 years old, and I am stuck in high heels, despite the fact they

### **READERS' CHOICE REPORTS**

### TUESDAY'S

**LOTTERIES** Cash 5

04-27-36-38-39

Cash4Life 06-08-16-23-57, Cash Ball: Daily Three-Midday 7-7-7, SB: 4 **Daily Three-Evening** 5-6-8, SB: 8 Daily Four-Midday 5-7-0-1, SB: 4

**Daily Four-Evening** 5-7-6-4, SB: 8 Mega Millions 27-37-48-63-66, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$45 million Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$183 million

### WEDNESDAY'S METALS

AluminumCopperLeadZinc	2.79 0.86 1.05
Lead	0.86 1.05
Gold	1,498.13
Platinum	

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices

Wednesday at Indianapolis-

area elevators: Corn: \$4.05

Soybeans: \$9.31.

given a company credit card has tightened so much that will take heed. but was told that I have to I am stuck in high heels and cover pennies on the dollar.

> I get into my 70s or 80s trust them. and have to totter around in 5-inch heels! – Permanently Stuck in Heels and Scared

STUCK IN HEELS AND SCARED: Thank you for McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut your cautionary tale. I do St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

**DEAR HARRIETTE:** I re- hurt. My back, legs and hope that other women out cently started a job that in- feet have numerous prob- there who find themselves volves a lot of travel. I was lems. My Achilles tendon in a similar predicament

Monday

Mostly Cloudy

33 / 25

For you, check with teachpay for my own food and must wear them whenever I ing hospitals in your area. charge the company back stand, otherwise I stand on Sometimes, these hospitals for a small percentage of my tiptoes. I can't put my will accept patients at much heels on the ground any- lower fees in exchange for more. A doctor told me I allowing the students to would need surgery, but my observe or operate on the health insurance will only patients themselves. I know several people who have Please warn other women had successful surgeries not to get too caught up in performed at such medical high heels, and if they do, establishments for free or stretch their bodies to main- close to free - for everytain flexibility. I don't know thing from dental surgery what I'm going to do when to cancer surgery. You can

> Harriette Cole is a lifestylist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access DEAR PERMANENTLY and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@ harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews



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- Missed your paper? We sincerely hope not, but if you did please contact your local post office. To verify that

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tion rates: Daily, 13 weeks, \$59.50. EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65. Other payment options available by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

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■ There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

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■ Classified: classifieds @wabashplaindealer.com ■ Legals: legals

@wabashplaindealer.com ■ Retail: cbrown @wabashplaindealer.com

### Newsroom

**■ Office Hours** Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Walk-in hours are from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday-Sunday: Hours vary Call: 260-563-2131

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wabashplaindealer.com

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# Student who saved classmates from shooting honored as Jedi

college student hailed by police as a hero for preventing more injuries and deaths after a gunman has now been immortalized as a Jedi by the production company for the Star Wars franchise.

the University of North Carolina at Charlotte stua huge Star Wars fan, was tipped off by Lucasfilm, in May that it planned to lecting "many of the earlihonor him in a forthcoming book, "Star Wars: The and codifications of The Rise of Skywalker – The Visual Dictionary." The book was released by publisher DK to coincide with the release of the new film "Star Wars: The Rise of

expressing condolences.

selflessness brings out the Phantom Menace.' Jedi in all of us," wrote

(AP) – A North Carolina that you may rejoice in his is far more significant. memory, and we join you in honoring his life and example."

"As a small tribute, our opened fire in a classroom Story Group has incorporated a reimagining of Riley's name as a character in the Star Wars galaxy," Seastrom continued. " ... News outlets report the The Force will be with Rifamily of Riley Howell, ley, and all of you, always

> The entry in the book is Jedi master and historian "Ri-Lee Howell" with col-Force."

Riley Howell's mother, Henry-Howell, Natalie told The Charlotte Observer that that this actually marks the second time her son has appeared in a "Star In May, the fan relations Wars" book: When he was team for Lucasfilm wrote a little boy, an uncle had a letter to Howell's family a personalized book made pus. Four other students for Riley that put him in were injured, but police "Riley's courage and the starring role of "The say Howell's actions pre-

"It was a big hit of a gift," fan relations team member she recalls, noting that the

"And I like the way they actually left his last name," think he would really be appreciative of that. Because, you know, they could have just said Ri-Lee - Jedi Ri-Lee – and we'd be guessing the whole time put his last name in there iust to really honor him ... cry when I heard about it."

The entire family went to see the new movie on openest accounts of exploration ing night. They brought his ashes, and left a seat open for him.

> says, "he would have liked the way it ended."

Howell, 21, and a classmate died April 30 when a gunman opened fire in a classroom in the Kennedy building on UNCC's camvented more injuries or loss of life.

"You're either going to loved."

N.C. Lucas Seastrom. "We hope inclusion in the new book run, hide and shield, or you're going to take the fight to the assailant," Charlotte-Mecklenburg Henry-Howell says. "I Police Department Chief Kerr Putney said. "Having no place to run and hide, he did the last."

Westmoreland, Lauren Howell's longtime girlfriend, said in an email, about whether or not that that the honor of becomwas really (him), but they ing a Jedi was one that was closest to his heart.

"Though he wasn't an dent who is described as just 66 words, but credits and that really made me artist, he loved to draw the clone trooper helmets all the time, sometimes even on my birthday cards," Westmoreland said."

> Lauren's father, Kevin Westmoreland, said How-"I think," Henry-Howell ell studied the Star Wars universe for most of his life.

> > "He had a very strong sense of good and evil, and how to live life as someone who looked out for others," Westmoreland said. "Seeing him listed as both a Jedi and a historian in Star Wars lore is a perfect way to connect him to this story and the characters he

### William E. Staton

William E. Staton, 81, one sister, Anna Francis North Manchester passed away Dec. 22, 2019 at his 28 great grandchildren. residence. William E. Staton will be remembered by 26, 2019 from 2 - 7 p.m. and Wayne (Luci) Staton; Manchester. Funeral servictwo daughters, Nola (Tim) Hudson and Iva "Moe" (John) Hedrick; two brothers, Herman (Louise) Staton

Goldy; 15 grandchildren and

his sons, Burnie (Val) Staton at McKee Mortuary, North es will be Friday, Dec. 27, 2019 at 11 a.m. with calling beginning at 10 a.m.

Arrangements are entrustand Kenny (Judy) Purvis; ed to McKee Mortuary.

## JFK letter promising Santa safe during Cold War on display

**BY PHILIP MARCELO** 

BOSTON — In the throes of the Cold War, the Soviet Union was planning to test a massive nuclear bomb in the Arctic Circle.

But in a letter to then-President John F. Kennedy, a young Michigan girl was most concerned about the North Pole's most famous resident.

"Please stop the Russians from bombing the North Pole," 8-year-old Michelle Rochon, of Marine City, pleaded, according to news reports at the time. "Because they will kill Santa Claus."

Kennedy's brief, but reassuring response to Rochon is part of a trove of holidaythemed archival materials being featured this month at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Bos-

"You must not worry about Santa Claus," the president wrote on Oct. 28, 1961. "I talked with him yesterday and he is fine. He will be making his rounds again this Christ-

Kennedy also told Rochon that he shared her concern about the Soviet Union's test, "not only for the North Pole but for countries throughout the world; not only for Santa Claus but for people throughout the world."

Photos of the Kennedys celebrating Christmas in the White House and copies of the family's Christmas cards are among the other holiday keepsakes being highlighted in a seasonal display in the library's lobby.

Rochon, who now goes by the last name Phillips, told The Boston Globe in 2014 that she never thought the letters would resonate the way it did back then, when it turned her into something of a national sensation.

"I was just worried about Santa Claus," she told the Globe.

The Soviets, meanwhile, made good on their threat to bomb the North Pole. Two days after Kennedy penned his letter, they dropped the "King of Bombs," as it was dubbed in Russian.

Reportedly 1,570 times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined, it shattered windows as far away as Norway and Finland. It's still considered the most powerful man-made explosive ever detonated.

Kennedy and other world leaders were quick to denounce the bomb test, The Washington Post reports. None of the officials statements, however, addressed Santa's fate.

## Gala Christmas Day for Queen Elizabeth II

**BY GREGORY KATZ** and JON SUPER

land — Queen Elizabeth II but I have been struck by Charles, their grandfaand her close family spent how new generations have ther, walked next to them. a gala Christmas Day at brought a similar sense of Charles, William and fender Jeffrey Epstein and her palatial countryside re- purpose to issues such as George are in line to follow failed to show empathy for treat, feasting on locally- protecting our environ- the queen to the throne. reared turkey after attending a church service.

The queen's traditional pre-recorded Christmas message was broadcast throughout Britain and the Commonwealth nations Wednesday afternoon. Britain's longest reigning monarch emphasized the need for forgiveness and reconciliation and admitted it had been a difficult

Talking about the desire to follow the example set by Jesus Christ, she said: "The path, of course, is not always smooth, and may at times this year have felt quite bumpy, but small steps can make a world of difference."

Surrounded by family photos, the queen also spoke about the sacrifices made by the World War II generation and paid tribute to the armed forces and Britain's emergency ser-

Noting the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion that liberated Europe from the Nazis, she said today's challenges are different and made what for her was a rare mention of climate

"The challenges many people face today may ment and our climate," she said.

Her comment about a "bumpy" year was seen as referring both to Britain's laborious exit from the European Union, which is now expected on Jan. 31 after voters gave the pro-Brexit Conservative Party a comfortable majority in Parliament, and to the royal family's difficulties.

The message was recorded before her 98-year-old husband Prince Philip was hospitalized for four days for treatment of a "pre-existing condition" that was not revealed to the public. He was able to join the rest of the family for Christ-

It was a festive day as the queen was joined at the Christmas church service for the first time by Prince George, 6, and Princess Charlotte, 4, the two eldest children of Prince William and his wife, Kate. They left 1-year-old Prince Louis at home.

Other senior royals also trooped to the morning service at St. Mary Magdalene Church near her Sandringham estate in eastern added. "I've never seen the England.

George and Charlotte

The queen arrived in a victims. chauffeur-driven maroon Bentley with Charles' wife, Camilla.

Prince Andrew, who has stepped down from royal duties because of his association with a convicted sex offender, attended an his brother Charles at his side.

Prince Harry, wife, Meghan, and their 7-month-old son, Archie, did not attend. They are spending the holiday in Canada with Meghan's mother, Doria Ragland.

The royals were greeted by several hundred wellwishers who had gathered outside the church grounds. After the service, William, Kate and their two children mingled with the crowd to exchange Christmas greetings.

Gemma Clark, who was in a wheelchair, gave Charlotte an inflatable pink flamingo and received a hug in return. She said the flamingo was called Felicity but that Charlotte is free to give it another name.

"It made my day," Clark royal family, ever."

Royal problems this year walked to church hand in included Andrew's retreat be different to those once hand with their parents from public duties follow-SANDRINGHAM, Eng- faced by my generation, William and Kate. Prince ing a disastrous TV interview in which he defended his friendship with sex of-Epstein's young female

> Andrew's decision to attend an early church service rather than join the family for the traditional service reflects his isolated position now that he is no longer carrying out any royal duties. Lawyers repearlier church service with resenting Epstein's victims are seeking Andrew's testimony for civil suits against the estate of Epstein, who died in prison in August in what New York officials said was a suicide.

The royal family has also endured what many close observers think is a rift between William and Harry, who has said he and William are now on separate

It has been a difficult year of adjustment for Harry and Meghan. They have complained bitterly about constant scrutiny by the media as they settle into family life with Archie and have sought to take a break from royal responsibilities.

Some British newspapers have interpreted their decision to spend Christmas with Meghan's mother as a snub to the queen and other royals.

### Songwriter Allee Willis dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Allee Willis, a songwriter whose work included the "The Broadway musical Color Purple" as well as the theme song from the TV show "Friends" and Earth, Wind & Fire's "September," has died. She was 72.

The cause of death Tuesday was a cardiac event, her publicist, Ellyn Solis, told The New York Times.

The Times did not specify where she died, though she had been living in Los Angeles. The Associated Press could not immediately reach

Willis was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018 - more than 30 years after she won a Grammy for cowriting Patti LaBelle's "Stir It Up" for the soundtrack of "Beverly Hills Cop."

She was nominated for but did not win, Grammy and Tony awards for co-writing the music for "The Color Purple."

She was also nominated for an Emmy for the "Friends" theme song, "I'll Be There for You" performed by the Rembrandts but lost to the theme of "Star Trek: Voy-

She wrote hundreds of other songs, including pieces for Ray Charles, Sister Sledge and Cyndi Lauper.

Willis grew up in Detroit and was raised on the sounds of Motown, though she never learned to play music. She attributes her love for music to visiting Motown studios every weekend while grow-

She is survived by her partner, Prudence Fenton.

## Pope offers hope against darkness in Christmas Day message

Pope Francis offered a Christmas message of hope Wednesday against darkness that cloaks conflicts and relationships in large parts of the world from the Middle East to the Americas to Af-

The pope told tens of thousands of tourists, pilgrims and Romans gathered in St. Peter's Square for the annual Christmas Day message that "the light of Christ is greater" than the darkness "in human hearts" and "in economic, geopolitical and

ecological conflicts." The traditional "Urbi et

VATICAN CITY (AP) Orbi" ("to the city and to the aged – still await a time of world") Christmas message has become an occasion for popes to address suffering in the world and press for solutions. Francis was flanked by Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, president of the papal council for migrants, and Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the pope's official almsgiver. The pope cited the Syrian

people "who still see no end to the hostilities that have rent their country over the last decade" as well as Is-

rael, where Jesus "was born

as the savior of mankind

and where so many people

struggling but not discour-

peace, security and prosper-

Francis also called for an easing of the crisis in Lebanon, social tensions in Iraq and "a grave humanitarian crisis" in Yemen.

He noted that a number of countries in the Americas "are experiencing a time of social and political upheaval," citing "the beloved Venezuelan people, long tried by their political and social tensions.'

The pope also noted migrants forced by injustice "to emigrate in the hope of a secure life." Instead of finding acceptance, Francis said injustice continues along their journey, where they often face abuse, enslavement and torture in "inhumane detention camps" and death during dangerous sea and desert crossings.

And once migrants arrive in "places where they might have hoped for a dignified life" ... they "instead find themselves before walls of indifference," he said.

The pope offered prayers of hope for the people of Africa, including those in Congo "torn by continuing conflicts" and the people of

Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

and Nigeria, where people have been "persecuted for their religious faith."

And in an extraordinary message, Francis along with two other religious leaders urged the rival leaders of South Sudan to maintain a pledge to form a coalition government early next year. A peace deal to end a 5-year civil war that killed close to 400,000 people was signed last year, but a November deadline to form a coalition government was extended to February as key aspects of the peace deal still need to be resolved.

The message, issued sepa-

rately from the traditional papal Christmas address, was signed by the leader of the Anglican church, Archbishop Justin Welby, and the Rev. John Chalmers, exmoderator of the Church of Scotland.

The religious leaders offered assurances "of our spiritual closeness as you strive for a swift implementation" of peace agreements and prayers "for a renewed commitment to the path of reconciliation and fraternity."

The leaders also expressed a desire to visit the East African nation.

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Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be handdelivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@ wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

# inspiration

# scripture

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

# A show trial, where the fix is in, will do lasting damage

For only the third time in this country's history, a president has been impeached. It now will be up to the U.S. Senate to determine whether President Donald Trump becomes the the actions he took were not for his first one to be convicted by trial in the Senate and removed from office.

The Senate impeachment trial was designed by the founders to be a serious, deliberative proceeding. For that reason, senators acting as jurors take an oath to do "impartial justice." In deciding the case before them, they are free to question witnesses. A conviction must be delivered by a supermajority, to foster consensus. In another move intended to convey impartiality, the chief justice of Supreme Court presides.

At least that's how it's supposed to work. But what is left of all those high-minded intentions when two key figures, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, have already declared their full cooperation with the defendant?

It is unsettling that McConnell and company are so emboldened that they don't even feel the need to go through the motions of a fair trial. This is where, at least in theory, the president

defense against the charges made by the House. To call the witnesses that would clear his name and attest that personal gain. But now, after months of bitter complaints that Trump had no chance to defend himself, after absurd, over-the-top outrage that he has been treated worse than a witch at the Salem trials, worse than Jesus Christ at the hands of Pontius Pilate, the defense apparently intends to produce ... nothing.

And really, there is no need when the fix is in. In a recent interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity, Mc-Connell said there was "zero chance" the president would be removed from office, and vowed "total coordination" with the White House and the Trump defense team.

Impeachment and potential removal of a president is a rare and grave matter and deserves to be treated as such, not dismissed as simply another partisan maneuver. Whether McConnell acknowledges it or not, the House did its due diligence, with hearings in which witnesses corroborated one another on information that led to the charges. Trump blocked

should be able to make his strongest some of the most important witnesses and attempted to intimidate those who did testify – itself an obstruction of a legal and valid investigation.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

The founders intended impeachment as a necessary curb on a rogue leader, because even more important than the presidency are the carefully constructed checks and balances that undergird our government. They hardly could have imagined a circumstance in which senators would yield that power in favor of protecting the very leader they are duty-bound to hold to account.

If the Senate acquits Trump, so be it. No president has ever been convicted. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is withholding the articles of impeachment until the Senate shows it will conduct a fair trial, with documents and witnesses. Only then, she said, will the House appoint managers who would handle the prosecution. McConnell's discomfort is understandable. But lasting damage will be done if the Senate conducts only a show trial with a predetermined outcome that would be an acquittal in name only.

This editorial was first published in The Star

## still winning Spoiler alert: The Senate will acquit

President Trump. But you probably already knew that.

Trump is

Unless we step into an alternate reality, in which Majority Leader Mitch McConnell bursts into gales of laughter and begs Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., to please keep talking, it seems likely that the Senate

### Kathleen **Parker**



won't call any White House officials to testify during the trial. Mc-Connell said as much Tuesday morning in response to Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's request that the Senate call four witnesses, including acting White House chief

of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton.

"It is not the Senate's job to leap into the breach and search desperately for ways to get to 'guilty," McConnell said. "That would hardly be impartial justice. ... If House Democrats' case is this deficient, this thin, the answer is not for the judge and jury to cure it here in the Senate. The answer is that the House should not impeach on this basis in the first place."

McConnell criticized the House process as rushed and harked back to the good ol' days of 1999 and the trial of then-President Clinton as the correct model to follow. No witnesses testified in-person then, either, though McConnell advocated for it and three witnesses were deposed at the Senate's request. As Schumer has pointed out, the witnesses Republicans wanted to appear had already given grand jury testimony.

In contrast, this time around none of Schumer's requested witnesses have been heard from in any form or forum. What's clear is that Republicans fear what White House officials might say about Trump and Ukraine; Democrats fear that Trump will not only walk away from the impeachment but also win reelection. Be afraid, be very afraid.

It's a virtual certainty that Trump will emerge relatively unscathed and, credibly, unfazed. Not only are his supporters more stalwart than ever but, ahem, as I predicted a couple of columns ago, his base is expanding. Since the impeachment proceedings began, 600,000 new donors have contributed to the Republican National Committee, according to Axios. Last week alone, just as the House Judiciary Committee adopted two articles of impeachment, the Trump campaign and RNC together took in more than \$10 million in small-dollar donations.

The Democratic National Committee made no such commensurate gains, though some Democrats running against designated Republican villains, such as California Rep. Devin Nunes, did see an uptick in fundraising.

Suffice to say, the Democrats have probably damaged themselves more than they have Trump, whose approval ratings have remained relatively steady between a low of 35 percent in 2017 and a high of 46 percent in April 2019 - no matter what he does to whom, according to Gallup. The latest Real Clear Politics poll average has him at 44 percent approval, which is slightly higher than in early October.

Meanwhile, the handful of Democratic presidential candidates still clinging to variations of hope and change face off Thursday in Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University after barely dodging a close encounter with their own petards. A weeklong cafeteria workers' strike at the school had threatened to shut down the debate, as no self-respecting Democrat would cross a picket line.

Fortunately, negotiators were able to wrap things up and the debate is on. You can feel the excitement. I confess, however, to minor disappointment. Not that I have plans that night, but I had looked forward to these potential presidents joining the strikers.

In my daydream, ol' avuncular Joe Biden would embrace every single worker. Mayor Pete Buttigieg would tell about the cafeteria lady he helped cross the street that time at Harvard. Andrew Yang would skip the line and negotiate a universal basic income. Warren would show up wearing a food worker's hairnet in solidarity. Sen. Bernie Sanders would call Larry David to stand in so he could go home and rest.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar would ask one of the strikers if she could borrow a comb, having brought along her dinner salad. And, finally, billionaire Tom Steyer would walk the line shaking hands and muttering, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry.'

Which is to say: Unless a photo surfaces showing late-comer Michael Bloomberg shooting a polar bear while slurping an extra-large, sugarladen soda, you can expect a Trump sequel in 2020. Sorry for the spoiler.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.



# As impeachment move to Senate, get ready for surprises

The battle to remove President Trump from office has moved to the Senate. Minority Leader Charles Schumer grabbed control of the debate Monday with demands for what he called "fairness" in the president's

Schumer wants the Senate to allow testimony from four witnesses the

York

**Byron** 

view: former national security adviser John Bolton; acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney; key Mulvaney aide Robert Blair; and Office of Management and Budget official Michael Duffey. House Democratic impeachers wanted the men

House did not inter-

to testify, but after the White House, claiming privilege, refused, House leaders chose not to try to force them to appear. Going to court to compel their testimony, Democrats said, would take too much time.

Now Schumer wants the witnesses simply to forget about privilege questions and testify in the Senate trial.

"How, on such a weighty matter, could we avoid hearing this, could we go forward without hearing it?" Schumer asked at a news conference Monday. "I haven't seen a single good argument about why these witnesses shouldn't testify – unless the president has something to hide and his supporters want that information

Republicans will respond that the Senate is not the place for fact-finding – that is, for senators to become investigators and do what the House

declined to do. Some will also note that the House chose not to seek the appointment of an outside investigator – a special counsel – to establish what happened in the Trump-Ukraine matter, and the

Senate is ill-equipped to play that

Many will also argue that the facts lawmakers finally got it back on of the case do not align with the Democratic accusation of bribery, and more testimony will not change that. Others will argue that they don't believe what the president did rises to the level of an impeachable offense.

In other words, they will come up with a number of good arguments perhaps not good arguments to Charles Schumer, but good arguments to Republicans – not to have any more witnesses.

Schumer is not trying to convince all 53 Senate Republicans to support his proposal. He just needs four. There are 47 Democrats in the Senate. If Schumer can persuade four GOP senators to join Democrats, they'll have a majority of 51 and can force the calling of new witnesses. (Of course, Schumer is counting on Democrats voting as a bloc against the president, which is probably a good bet.)

If Schumer gets what he wants, it seems hard to believe that will be the end of it. The request for more witnesses appears designed to lead not to closure, but to re-opening the case against Trump in this way: If Democrats can introduce new testimony in the trial, they can say the new testimony has raised new questions that will require new investigation. And new investigation will require more

new witnesses, which will surely lead to more new questions, which ... Call it the Brett Kavanaugh model of impeachment. During the Supreme Court justice's confirmation process, a hearing had already been held and Kavanaugh appeared on the way to joining the court. Then, up popped a new allegation – the Christine Blasey-Ford story – and Democrats demanded the case be re-opened, witnesses be interviewed, evidence be gathered, time be taken

for more investigation. Republicans acceded to those demands, and the

Kavanaugh confirmation careened

off course for a while before GOP

It is not beyond imagination that a Senate impeachment trial, were it controlled by Schumer and his Democratic colleagues, might take a similarly unforeseen course. Beyond new witnesses, there are plenty of ways that could happen.

For example: On Monday, Dec. 16, lawyers for the House Judiciary Committee told a federal court it is essential that grand-jury materials from special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation be given to House investigators. Why? Because it might help the impeachment effort. "If the House approves articles of impeachment," the lawyers argued, "relevant grand-jury material that the committee obtains in this litigation could be used during the subsequent Senate proceedings.

If the Judiciary Committee receives the information, there is little doubt its leaders will work with Senate Democrats to create the impression that there is new evidence so compelling that it absolutely must be included in the impeachment trial. And if Republicans disagree – what are they trying to hide? Indeed, Schumer and his col-

leagues have prepared the way to characterize any move to limit the trial's scope as an effort to hide wrongdoing from the American people. "To engage in a trial without the facts coming out is to engage in a cover-up," he said Monday.

The bottom line is, Republicans should not believe for one minute that the campaign to remove the president will rely only on the case Democrats have built in the House. Schumer and other party leaders will scramble for new information to throw at the president, and at Republicans, until it is over. The GOP, and the White House, need to be ready.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner

WWW.WABASHPLAINDEALER.COM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

# Satisfy your wanderlust with this fragrant curry

It's that time of year again. As the holiday season winds down, the reality of winter sets in, and with that comes lust. Over-sated and overstimulated with the goodies and activity of Christmas past, it's now time for comfort and warmth.

Satisfying, fragrant soups and stews, heady with spice, tease the senses and hint of sunny far-flung destinations. You might call it escapism or a craving for carefree ease and simplicity, but I can't think of a better way to greet January head-on.

This curry is rich, bright and bursting with flavor. It's also easy to make and extremely versatile. You can add additional vegetables to the stew, such as carrot and cauliflower. Be sure to taste a small piece of the jalapeno before adding it to the stew, since they can vary in heat. Remember that their heat is concentrated in the membranes of the pepper, so remove or include the mem- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice branes to suit your taste. A 1 teaspoon salt

squeeze of lime juice is es- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground sential to brightening the stew and giving it a little kick of acidity.

Best of all, this dish can a bout of culinary wander- be prepared in 30 minutes, which leaves you just enough time to cook some rice to serve with the stew.

### **Shrimp Curry**

Active Time: 30 minutes Total Time: 30 minutes Yield: Serves 4

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced 1 green jalapeno pepper, stemmed and seeded, finely
- chopped 2 tablespoons grated fresh
- peeled ginger 1 1/2 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 (28-ounce) can chopped Ital-
- ian plum tomatoes 1 1/2 cups coconut milk 1 medium zucchini, quartered
- lengthwise, each quarter sliced in 1/2-inch pieces 1 pound large shrimp, peeled
- and deveined 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus extra for garnish

Heat the oil in a deep skillet or soup pot over medium heat. Add the onion and saute until soft, about 3 minutes. Add the garlic, jalapeno and ginger and saute until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the curry powder and continue to cook until fragrant, about 1 minute

1 to 2 teaspoons brown sugar

Lime wedges for serving

black pepper

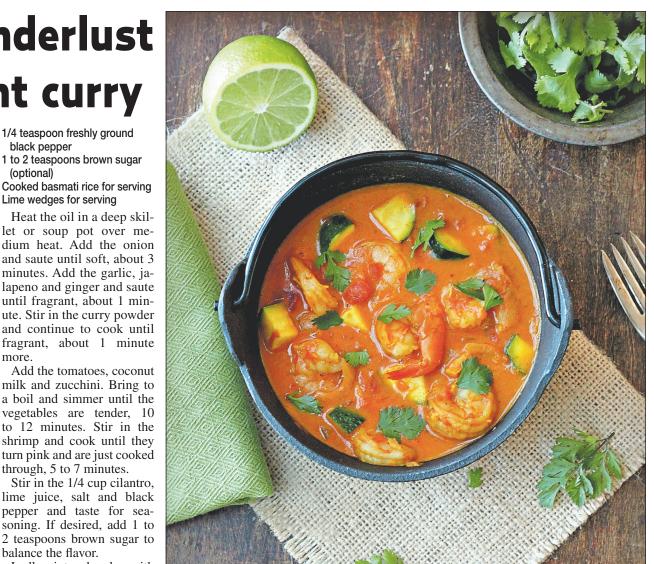
(optional)

more.

Add the tomatoes, coconut milk and zucchini. Bring to a boil and simmer until the vegetables are tender, 10 to 12 minutes. Stir in the shrimp and cook until they turn pink and are just cooked through, 5 to 7 minutes.

Stir in the 1/4 cup cilantro, lime juice, salt and black pepper and taste for seasoning. If desired, add 1 to 2 teaspoons brown sugar to balance the flavor.

Ladle into bowls with cooked basmati rice. Garand serve with lime wedges.



PROVIDED PHOTO BY LYNDA BALSLEV FOR TASTEFOOD

nish with additional cilantro KICK: A squeeze of lime juice is essential to brightening the stew and giving it a little kick of acidity.



MEAL: Serve up with some warm, crusty bread for a quick and wholesome meal.

# Quick eight-vegetable soup

### BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE

FOR CANCER RESEARCH If you're rushing around this week, like we are to get ready for the new year or preparing to start the right diet, dinner may seem like a daunting new task. Don't worry! We have a healthy dish you can prepare in a breeze. Frozen versions of your favorite veggies cut down on prep time and thanks to flash-freezing technology, contain the same nutrients as their fresh counterparts. Beans add protein and extra fiber. Serve up with some warm, crusty bread for a quick and wholesome meal.

### **Baby Greens with Blackberry Vinaigrette**

- 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil 1 small chopped onion
- 4 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- ½ cup frozen baby lima beans 1 (15 oz.) can no salt added back, Great Northern, or navy
- 1 cup frozen mixed vegetables ½ cup frozen tri-colored bell peppers
- 2 tsp. dried oregano or thyme
- Pinch of dried red pepper flakes
- 1 cup frozen broccoli florets Salt, to taste
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

There may be a chill in the air, but our hearts are warmed

by thoughts of our

many good friends and neighbors at this special time of year.

Thanks, folks!

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til translucent, 5 minutes, medium heat. stirring occasionally. Add ered for 5 minutes. Add canned beans,

vegetables, pepmixed pers, oregano and pepper 220 calories, 5 g total fat coli, cover, and cook for 5 fiber, 11 g protein, 350 mg minutes. Add salt to taste. sodium.

In a large saucepan, heat This soups keeps covered oil over medium-high heat. in refrigerator for 3 days. Add onion and cook un- Reheat in covered pot over

To serve, divide soup broth and bring liquid to among deep bowls. Top boil. Add lima beans, re- each serving with 1 tableduce heat and simmer, cov- spoon Parmesan cheese, or pass it separately at table.

Makes 4 servings

Per 1 2/3 cup Serving: flakes and simmer, covered (1.5 g saturated fat), 30 g for 5 minutes. Add broc- carbohydrate, 9 g dietary

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## Cafes are banishing disposable coffee cups

### BY JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

in the San Francisco area, where a growing number of paper to-go cups and replacing them with everything from glass jars to rental mugs and BYO cup policies.

What started as a small trend among neighborhood cafes to reduce waste is and coffee world.

Celebrated chef Domi- "We expect to lose some nique Crenn, owner of the business," he said. "We ing a San Francisco cafe next year that will have no to-go bags or disposable to sip and go at Boutique Crenn will be encouraged to bring their own coffee cups, says spokeswoman Kate

Bittman. Bottle coffeehouse chain, which goes through about 15,000 to-go cups a month at its 70 U.S. locations, says it wants to "show our guests and the world that we can eliminate disposable cups."

Blue Bottle is starting small with plans to stop using paper cups at two of its San Francisco area branches hard to recycle, Croke said.

in 2020, as part of a pledge to go "zero waste" by the SAN FRANCISCO — A end of next year. Coffee new cafe culture is brewing to-go customers will have to bring their own mug or pay a deposit for a reusable coffee houses are banishing cup, which they can keep or return for a refund. The deposit fee will likely be between \$3 and \$5, the company said.

Blue Bottle's pilot program will help guide the company on how to expand gaining support from some the idea nationwide, CEO big names in the city's food Bryan Meehan said in a statement.

three-star Michelin restau- know some of our guests rant Atelier Crenn, is open- won't like it – and we're prepared for that." Larger coffee and fast-

food chains around the coffee cups and will use no U.S. are feeling a sense of plastic. Customers who plan urgency to be more environmentally friendly, and will no doubt be watching, said Bridget Croke, of New York-based recycling investment firm Closed Loop Part-On a bigger scale, the Blue ners, which is working with Starbucks and McDonald's to develop an eco-friendly alternative to the disposable coffee cup.

> Despite the name, today's conventional paper cups for hot drinks aren't made solely from paper. They also have plastic linings that prevent leakage but make them





## Illinois man gets 55 years in stabbing of cousin in Indiana

in the 2017 murder of his cousin, who was stabbed 63 times and found near a road in Indiana.

Derrick Lavelle Wandrick, 36, was sentenced in Kosciusko Circuit Court Monday for the murder of 21-year-old David Lamont Strowder Jr., according to court records. The Elkhart October 2017.

WARSAW (AP) — An linois, claimed he has no Illinois man has been sen- recollection of the incident. tenced to 55 years in prison His attorney, Jay Rigdon, said in court that his client

> "He is as sorry as sorry can be," Rigdon said, according to The (Warsaw) Times-Union "He's got a family member who is no longer alive and he doesn't have a clue why."

But Judge Michael Reed said he didn't hear remorse man was found in a ditch in or evidence of drug use or mental illness, as Wan-Wandrick, of Harvey, Il- drick's mother suggested in

"I really never heard from you that you're sorry," Reed said. "I never heard any remorse from you, sir. To do something like that to someone you're close with, with no explanation blows my mind.'

Under the plea deal, Wandrick will also pay roughly \$2,500 in restitution to Strowder's family for funeral expenses.

The victim's family was in court but declined com-

## Reenactment of Washington's crossing of Delaware completed

WASHINGTON CROSS-ING, Pa. (AP) — Thousands turned out Wednesday to watch the annual reenactment of George Washington's daring Christmas Day crossing of the Delaware River in 1776 - the first time the crossing was completed in three years.

The event was scrapped because of bad weather the last two years, but historical interpreter Nancy O'Leary said at Washington Crossing Historical Park that the conditions this year "couldn't be bet-

"We had lovely weather, ing public interpretation. and we probably had record attendance," said Jennifer Martin, executive director of the Friends of Washington Crossing Park. She estimated that 4,500 to 5,000 people were watching the event, the highlight of a historical reenactment that draws people to the banks of the river in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania,

and Titusville, New Jersey. Other activities include Washington's address to his troops, historical speeches and processions, and staff in period clothing provid- the march.

Last year, high water conditions scuttled plans for the crossing in the wooden Durham boats. The year before, high winds prompted cancellation of the event.

In the original crossing, boats ferried 2,400 soldiers, 200 horses and 18 cannons across the river. Washington's troops marched 8 miles downriver before battling Hessian mercenaries in the streets of Trenton. Thirty Hessians were killed, and two Continental soldiers froze to death on

## Notre Dame rector: Fragile cathedral might not be saved

BY JEFFREY SCHAEFFER and ANGELA CHARLTON

PARIS — The rector of Notre Dame Cathedral says the Paris landmark is still so fragile that there's a "50 percent chance" the structure might not be saved, because scaffolding installed before this year's fire is threatening the vaults of the Gothic monument.

Monsignor Patrick Chauvet said restoration work isn't likely to begin until 2021 – and described his "heartache" that Notre Dame couldn't hold Christmas services this year, for the first time since the French Revolution.

"Today it is not out of danger," he told The Associated Press on the sidelines of Christmas Eve midnight Mass in a nearby church. "It will be out of danger when we take out the remaining scaffolding.'

"Today we can say that there is maybe a 50 percent chance that it will be saved. There is also 50 percent chance of scaffolding falling onto the three vaults, so as you can see the building is still very fragile," he said.

The 12th-century cathedral was under renovation at the time of the accidental April fire, which destroyed its roof and collapsed its spire. With no more roof authorities are working to said.

structure stable, the cathedral's surviving vaults are crucial to keeping it standing, but they are vulnerable.

Some 50,000 tubes of time of the fire, and some were damaged. Removing them without causing further problems is one of the toughest parts of the cleanup effort.

"We need to remove comorder to make the building safe, so in 2021 we will probably start the restoration of the cathedral," scaffolding is removed we need to assess the state of the cathedral, the quantity replaced.'

estimated it Chauvet years after that to make it safe enough for people to re-enter the cathedral, but that the full restoration will take longer. President Emmanuel Macron has said he wants it rebuilt by 2024. when Paris hosts the Olympics, but experts have questioned whether that time frame is realistic.

Another reason it's still too dangerous to host religious services inside Notre Dame: The fire released

to keep the massive stone clean it up and assess related health risks.

Notre Dame's symbolism reaches far and wide. Church officials estimated 2 million people from around scaffolding crisscrossed the the world visited the catheback of the edifice at the dral during the holiday season.

Tourists can photograph it from nearby embankments, but they can no longer hear its organs or get a close view of its stone carvings and masterpiece rose winpletely the scaffolding in dows. The vast forecourt is barricaded, barren of its Christmas tree.

But its congregation, clergy and choir are keep-Chauvet said. "Once the ing its spirit alive, and decamped Christmas celebrations to the Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois Church across of stones to be removed and from the Louvre Museum instead.

Parishioners shared sorwould take another three row about the fire, but also a feeling of solidarity.

"I remember my mother told me that she was watching TV, and that there was a fire at Notre Dame. I told her 'it's not possible,' and I took my bike, and when I arrived I was crying," said Jean-Luc Bodam, a Parisian engineer who used to cross town to attend services at the cathedral.

"We are French, we are going to try to rebuild Notre Dame as it was before, betons of toxic lead dust, and cause it is a symbol," he

## Afghan official says Taliban abducted 26 peace activists

**BY TAMEEM AKHGAR** 

KABUL, Afghanistan -The Taliban ambushed a peace convoy in western Afghanistan and abducted 26 activists, members of a peace movement, a police

spokesman said Wednesday. The insurgents staged the ambush in the district of Bala Buluk in Farah province on Tuesday. The Tali-

ban forced the six-vehicle convoy to a halt, then got into the cars and drove them and the activists to an unknown location, said the provincial police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib.

According to Mohib, a police operation is underway to locate and free the activists whose convoy was going village-to-village to rally for peace.

Watandost of the People's Peace Movement of Afghanistan, to which the activists belong, said that 27 of their members were abducted by the Taliban in the Farah assault. The different figures could not immediately be reconciled.

The Taliban, who have been active in Farah, have not claimed responsibility

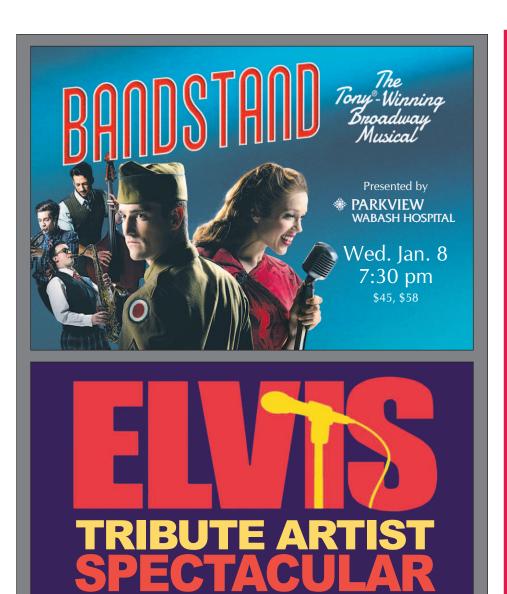
for the abductions. However, Watandost also said that tribal elders in the province immediately launched an effort to negotiate with the Taliban to release the abducted activists. He added that phone lines were down in the region, making communication and getting information from the area dif-

The Taliban today hold

sway or control practically half of Afghanistan and are at their strongest since the 2001 U.S.-invasion. They continue to stage near-daily attacks targeting Afghan and U.S. forces, as well as government officials – even as they hold peace talks with a U.S. envoy tasked with negotiating an end to the 18-year conflict, America's longest war.

The latest rallies by the activists from the People's Peace Movement of Afghanistan started on Friday, first in southern Helmand province, a Taliban heart-

At a similar series of peace rallies in October, the Taliban abducted six activists from the movement in eastern Logar province but released them the same day.





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Sports

### **ESPN** college football reporter Edward Aschoff dies at 34

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) ESPN college football reporter Edward Aschoff, known for his outgoing and friendly personality, dapper dress and great love of sports, has died. He was 34.

The sports network announced Aschoff died Tuesday after a brief illness.

Aschoff joined ESPN in 2011 as part of the SEC blog network, which covers the NCAA Southeastern Conference. During the past three seasons, Aschoff reported from college campuses across the U.S. for ESPN. com, SportsCenter, SEC Network and ESPN radio, ESPN reported. He was both a television and radio sideline reporter during games.

A native of Oxford, Mississippi, and a 2008 graduate of the University of Florida, Aschoff previously covered recruiting and Florida football for The Gainesville Sun.

### El-Amin scores 18 to lead Ball State over Portland 61-46

HONOLULU (AP) - Ishmael El-Amin scored 15 of his 18 points in the second half and Luke Bumbalough added 14 points as Ball State topped Portland 61-46 on Wednesday for seventh place in the Diamond Head Classic.

El-Amin and Bumbalough each made four 3-pointers as Ball State (7-6) was 10 of 37 from distance. The duo combined to make five 3-pointers in the first seven minutes of the second half for the first double-digit lead of the game at 38-27. The lead got as high as 18 from

there and as low as eight. Neither team was able to get much going offensively in the first half, heading to the locker room tied at 19. The Pilots' 19 first-half points marked a season low for the team.

Tahirou Diabate had 12 points for the Pilots (8-7), whose losing streak

stretched to four games. Ball St. plays Toledo at home on Jan. 3. Portland hosts Gonzaga on Jan. 2.

### Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

E-mailed to sports@ wabashplaindealer.com. Called into 260-225-4523

after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice

Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

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Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



JUMPER: Northfield's Emma Hoover (22) shoots a jumper over a trio of Apaches during last week's meeting between the two sides.

# **Exciting rematches set** for county tournament

**BY JACOB RUDE** 

A pair of exciting match-ups last weekend set the stage for a pair of rematches to open the girls' basketball slate for the Wabash County Tournament.

### Manchester (3-11) vs. Southwood (2-11), 3 p.m.

Last Friday, the Knights nearly pulled off a memorable comeback at home against Manchester, overcoming an 11-point fourth-quarter deficit before a late foul allowed the Squires to escape with a 34-31

The two sides have struggled offensively this year, Southwood averaging 32.1 points per game and Manchester 33.7. The defenses have similarly struggled, the Knights allowing 45.3 points per game and the Squires 41.2 per

Southwood is led offensively this season by MaKenna Pace's 8.6 points per game. Erin Lehner chips in 6.0 points per game. For Manchester, Emma Garriott aver-

ages 6.8 points per game and Ra-rematch between the last 13 Wanissa Shambarger adds 4.5 points.

Manchester has not won a county tournament title since 2005-06. The Squires have 12 Wabash County Tournament titles alltime, winning four straight from 1996-97 until 1999-00. Since that streak, though, the Squires have titles, Wabash had won three won just two titles.

Southwood, though, has never won a county tournament title dating back to the first tournament in 1976-77. The Knights also have the fewest runner-up appearances with just seven. The last time the Knights made the title game was 2013-14 against Northfield.

### Northfield (7-4) vs. Wabash (6-6), 6:30 p.m.

The Norse were handed their first TRC loss of the season last Saturday at the hands of the Apaches. Wabash limited Northfield to 29 percent shooting from the field in the game and turned the Norse over 17 times to earn the upset victory.

Now, the two sides meet in a against Manchester in 2016.

bash County Tournament titles. Northfield has won back-to-back tournament titles, knocking off the Apaches to open last year's tournament before beating the Squires in the final.

Prior to Northfield's last two straight County tourney titles and nine of 11 tournament titles. The two sides have dominated the tournament, winning 29 of the 41 county titles.

For Northfield this season, Addi Baker leads the team in scoring at 11.5 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. Emma Hoover also averages double figures at 10.5 points per game. Wabash is led by the duo of Alivia Short and Mariah Wyatt at 11.1 and 10.0 points per game. The two pull down an average of 15.1 rebounds per game as well on the year.

Northfield currently holds a five-game win streak in the county tournament with their last loss coming in the opening match-up **GOLF** 

# Woods' comeback at Masters named AP **Sports** Story of the Year

BY EDDIE PELLS

A green jacket. A heart-melting embrace. A stirring return to the top of golf by one of the sport's all-time

In choosing Tiger Woods' victory at the Masters as The Associated Press sports story of the year, voters went with the uplifting escape of a great comeback over options that were as much about sports as the issues that enveloped them in 2019: politics, money and the growing push for equal pay and equal rights for women.

The balloters, a mix of AP member sports editors and AP beat writers, elevated Woods' rousing victory at Augusta National over the runner-up entry: the U.S. women's soccer team's victory at the World Cup. That monthlong competition was punctuated by star Megan Rapinoe's push for pay equality for the women's team and an ongoing war of words with President Donald Trump.

Rapinoe's efforts to use sports as a platform to discuss bigger issues was hardly a one-off in 2019. Of the top 12 stories in the balloting, only three - titles won by the Toronto Raptors, Washington Nationals and University of Virginia basketball team — stuck mainly to what happened between the

All the rest — including the blown call that cost the Saints a chance at the Super Bowl, a California law that threatens to upend the NCAA and Simone Biles' dominance at gymnastics' world championships, set against the backdrop of the sex-abuse crisis consuming the sport in the U.S. were long-running sagas that went beyond a single day or event. They painted sports not as an escape from the world's problems but merely another window into them.

It's no stretch to say that the whole of the Woods saga — namely, the sordid, pain-riddled, decadelong prelude to his victory at Augusta National in April — would fit into that category, as well.

His downfall began in the wee hours the day after Thanksgiving in 2009, when he ran over a fire hydrant outside his house in Florida, triggering an avalanche of stories about infidelity that would lead to the breakup of his marriage and play into the near-destruction of his career.

Part 2 was the injuries. Woods came close but did not return to his dominant form after his return to golf following his breakup with his wife. And as time went on, his physical condition deteriorated. He didn't play in 2016 or 2017, and at the end of '17, he conceded his back was so bad that his days of competitive golf might be behind him.

There were four risky back surgeries. See WOODS / Page B2

**NBA** 

## Hot 76ers deal Bucks a rare loss, 121-109

**BY DAN GELSTON** 

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid outplayed Giannis Antetokounmpo in Philadelphia's first home Christmas game in 31 years, collecting 31 points and 11 rebounds to help the 3-point happy 76ers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 121-109 on Wednesday.

Tobias Harris sank five 3s, Josh Richardson and Furkan Korkmaz each had four and even Embiid hit three as part of Philly's season-high 21 3s (on 44 attempts) against a Bucks team that had the best

record in the NBA. Harris and Al Horford hit 3s over the final 90 seconds

to push back a late Bucks run, and the Sixers improved to 16-2 at home.

There was a charged atmosphere for the anticipated matchup featuring Embiid and Ben Simmons taking on Khris Middleton and Antetokounmpo. Fans dressed as elves, wore ugly sweaters and held signs that said all they wanted for Christmas was a Sixers win.

They got it, with Embiid using the national showcase to play like an MVP in a dominant first half that helped the Sixers take the biggest halftime lead (21 points) against the Bucks under coach Mike Buden-

and was disruptive defensively, holding Antetokounmpo to 4-for-14 shooting in the half. The Sixers hit 11 3s in the half and made the NBA-best Bucks (27-5) look like anything but Eastern Conference contenders. Embiid stood firm under the basket, arms extended sky high on one Antetokounmpo drive in transition. Embiid absorbed the contact and the "Greek

Freak" lost control of the ball, one of six Milwaukee turnovers at the break. 76ers coach Brett Brown

said before the game the

Bucks were "NBA royalty."

They have a ways to go

in the East. With fans chanting "Trust

the Process!" on Embiid free throws, the All-Star center was worthy of the holiday highlight video.

"I reminded our team, people in America have more appreciation for this day in the NBA," Brown said. "We're grateful for the opportunity.'

The Sixers aced their test against the NBA's best.

"I'm not going to overvalue one game," 76ers general manager Elton Brand said, "but it's a good barometer." It wasn't just Embiid that flustered the Bucks. Kork-

maz was knocked on his

Embiid scored 23 points before they're crowned tops rear and buried Philly's 16th 3 of the game late in the third for a 93-67 lead that had the crowd going wild. Korkmaz's shot capped a string of 3s on five straight Sixers baskets. Mike Scott, the reserve better known for his man-of-the-people popup appearances, became the seventh Sixer to hit a 3 for a 98-70 lead. The 76ers led 100-73 through three.

Middleton scored points and Antetokounmpo had 18 points and 14 rebounds. Antetokounmpo got flustered over a perceived missed call and was whistled for a technical in

See **NBA** / Page B2

### **SCOREBOARD**

### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

### Indiana High School Boys Basketball Top 10 Teams

The Associated Press Top 10 Indiana high school boys basketball teams, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, rating points and previous rankings: Class 4A

	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Lawrence North (15)	7-0	318	1
2. Bloomington South (1)	7-0	282	2
3. Lafayette Jeff	7-0	233	3
Lawrence Central	4-1	206	4
5. Warren Central	4-0	172	5
6. Floyd Central	6-1	145	6
7. Fishers	7-0	143	8
8. Brownsburg	7-1	136	7
9. Westfield	6-0	109	9
10. S. Bend Adams	7-0	83	10
Others receiving votes:			
Diagraminaton North 22	Infforce	nvilla	15

Bioomington North 32. Jeffersonville 15. Columbus North 14. New Albany 12. Indpls Cathedral 8. Chesterton 6. Indpls Pike 6. Class 3A

UIASS JA			
	W-L	Pts	Pr
1. Silver Creek (16)	7-0	320	
2. Heritage Hills	5-1	249	
3. Connersville	7-0	241	4
4. Danville	7-1	190	
5. Norwell	6-0	189	(
6. Greensburg	4-1	158	ļ
7. Indpls Brebeuf	5-1	153	(
8. S. Bend St. Joseph's	5-1	110	10
9. Delta	5-1	96	N
10. N. Harrison	4-1	50	N
Others receiving votes:			
Indian Creek 47. Sullivan 26	i. Wash	ingtor	121

Beech Grove 20. Mississinewa 16. Princeton 15. Ev. Bosse 13. Jimtown 6.

UIASS ZA			
	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Linton-Stockton (10)	5-0	298	1
2. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (6)	5-1	292	2
3. Blackford	5-0	246	3
4. Shenandoah	4-1	231	4 5
5. Prairie Hts.	8-0	180	5
6. Ev. Mater Dei	6-1	151	7
7. Tipton	8-1	123	6
8. S. Decatur	7-0	120	10
9. Paoli	5-1	77	NR
10. Indpls Howe	6-1	62	NR
Others receiving votes:			
Wapahani 36. Indpls F	Park 1	Γudor	24.

Northeastern 20. Forest Park 15. Whiting 10. Lapel 9. Providence 7. Andrean 7. Westview 6. Bluffton 6. W-I Pts Prv 1. Barr-Reeve (11) 2. Gary 21st Century (4)

308 251 240 232 213 156 140 132 119 3. Greenwood Christian (1) 6-0 Bloomfield 6. Covington 7. Loogootee 8. Lafayette Catholic 9. Providence Cristo Rey 6-1 10. Dubois 52

Others receiving votes: Christian Academy 45. Oldenburg 26.

## **AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

East

W L T Pct
12 3 0 .800
10 5 0 .667
6 9 0 .400
4 11 0 .267 y-New England 12 x-Buffalo 10 308 246 N.Y. Jets 263 279 South L T 5 0 7 0 Pct y-Houston Tennessee .667 .533 .467 364 367 341 262 10 7 8 0 .467 5 10 0 .333 335 377 Indianapolis Jacksonville y-Baltimore Pittsburgh Cleveland 0 .867 0 .533 0 .400 0 .067 503 279 312 246 Cincinnati West L T Pct 4 0 .733 8 0 .467 9 0 .400 10 0 .333 420 298 266 y-Kansas City Oakland Denver L.A. Chargers 5 10 0 .333 3

East
W L T Pct
8 7 0 .533
7 8 0 .467
4 11 0 .267
3 12 0 .200 Philadelphia N.Y. Giants Washington W L 12 3 7 8 6 9 5 10 y-New Orleans 12 Tampa Bay 7 Atlanta 6 416 436 353 330 .800 .467 .400 .333 Carolina North W Pct .800 .667 y-Green Bay x-Minnesota 12 10 353 388 293 282 Chicago Detroit 8 0 .467 259

L T Pct 3 0 .800 4 0 .733 7 0 .533 9 1 .367 Pct .800 .733 .533 x-San Francisco12 x-Seattle 11 L.A. Rams 8 Arizona x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division Sunday's Games Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. Miami at New England, 1 p.m. Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m. Cleveland at Cincinnati. 1 p.m L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 1 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 1 p.m. New Orleans at Carolina, 1 p.m. Oakland at Denver, 4:25 p.m. Tennessee at Houston, 4:25 p.m. Washington at Dallas, 4:25 p.m. Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 4:25 p.m. Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 4:25 p.m. Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m. Arizona at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m. San Francisco at Seattle, 8:20 p.m.

### **COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Bowl Glance Friday, Dec. 20 Bahamas Bowl

Buffalo 31, Charlotte 9 Frisco (Texas) Bowl Kent State 51. Utah State Saturday, Dec. 21 Celebration Bowl At Atlanta NC A&T 64, Alcorn State 44

Albuquerque
San Diego State 48, Central Michigan 11
Cure Bowl Orlando, Fla

New Mexico Bowl

Liberty 23, Georgia Southern 16 Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl FAU 52, SMU 28 Camellia Bowl

Montgomery, Ala. Arkansas State 34, FIU 26 Las Vegas Bowl Washington 38, Boise State 7 **New Orleans Bowl** Appalachian State State 31, UAB 17 Monday, Dec. 23 Gasparilla Bowl At Tampa, Fla. UCF 48. Marshall 25

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl Honolulu Hawaii 38, BYU 34

Thursday, Dec. 26 Independence Bowl

Shreveport, La. Miami (6-6) vs. Louisiana Tech (9-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN) **Quick Lane Bowl** 

Detroit Pittsburgh (7-5) vs. Eastern Michigan (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 27 Military Bowl Annapolis, Md

North Carolina (6-6) vs. Temple (8-4), Noon (ESPN)

Pinstripe Bowl

Wake Forest (8-4) vs. Michigan State (6-6), 3:20 p.m. (ESPN)

### Texas Bowl

Oklahoma State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), Oklahofna State (-6:45 p.m. (ESPN) Holiday Bowl

San Diego lowa (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-4), 8 p.m. (FS1)

### Cheez-It Bowl

Air Force (10-2) vs. Washington State (6-6), 10:15 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Dec. 28

Camping World Bowl Orlando, Fla.

### **CALENDAR**

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL** 4 p.m.

**ESPN:** The Independence Bowl: Louisiana Tech vs. Miami, Shreveport, La.

8 p.m. ESPN: The Quick Lane Bowl: Pittsburgh vs. Eastern

Michigan, Detroit **NBA BASKETBALL** 

8 p.m. TNT: NY Knicks at Brook-

lyn 10:30 p.m. TNT: Portland at Utah SOCCER (MEN'S)

7:25 a.m. **NBCSN:** Premier League: Brighton at Tottenham

### **Cotton Bowl Classic** Arlington, Texas Penn State (10-2) vs. Memphis (12-1), Noon (ESPN)

Peach Bowl

CFP Semifinal, LSU (13-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN) Fiesta Bowl

Fiesta Bowi Glendale, Ariz. CFP Semifinal, Ohio State (13-0) vs. Clemson (13-0), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Dec. 30 SERVPRO First Responder Bowl Dallas Western Kentucky (8-4) vs. Western Michigan

Western Kentucky (8-4) vs. Western Michigan (7-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn. Mississippi State (6-6) vs. Louisville (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Redbox Bowl Santa Clara, Calif. Illinois (6-6) vs. California (7-5), 4 p.m. (FOX) Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Florida (10-2) vs. Virginia (9-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 31
Belk Bowl

Kentucky (7-5) vs. Virginia Tech (8-4), Noon

Sun Bowl El Paso, Texas Florida State (6-6) vs. Arizona State (7-5), **Liberty Bowl** 

Memphis, Tenn Kansas State (8-4) vs. Navy (10-2), 3:45 p.m. Arizona Bowl Tucson, Ariz. Wyoming (7-5) vs. Georgia St. (7-5), 4:30 p.m.

Alamo Bowl San Antonio Texas (7-5) vs. Utah (11-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Jan. 1 Citrus Bowl

Orlando, Fla

Michigan (9-3) vs. Alabama (10-2), 1 p.m. Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla. Minnesota (10-2) vs. Auburn (9-3), 1 p.m.

**Rose Bowl** 

г азацена, Callī. Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (10-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN) Sugar Bowl Georgia (11-2) vs. Baylor (11-2), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)

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Philadelphia	23	10	.697	1			
Toronto	21		.656	21/2			
Brooklyn	16			6			
New York	7	24	.226	16			
Southeast Division							
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Miami	22	8	.733	_			
Orlando	13	17	.433	9			
Charlotte	13	20	.394	101/2			
Washington	9	20	.310	121/2			
Atlanta	6	25	.194	161/2			
Central	Divi	sion					
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Milwaukee	27	5	.844	_			
Indiana	21	10	.677	51/2			
Chicago	12	20	.375	15			

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Houston	21	9	.700	_
Dallas	19	10	.655	11/2
San Antonio	12	17	.414	81/2
Memphis	11	20	.355	101/2
New Orleans	8	23	.258	131/2
Northwe	st Di	visio	n	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	21	8	.724	_
Utah	18	12	.600	31/2
Oklahoma City	15	14	.517	6
Portland	14	17	.452	8
Minnesota	10	19	345	11

**Pacific Division** I A Lakers .800 L.A. Clippers Sacramento .688 11 Phoenix Golden State 24 .226 Tuesday's Games

None Scheduled

Wednesday's Games
Boston 118, Toronto 102 Philadelphia 121, Milwaukee 109 Houston at Golden State L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers New Orleans at Denver

Today's Games
Washington at Detroit, 7 p.m.
New York at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. San Antonio at Dallas, 8 p.m. Minnesota at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Portland at Utah, 10:30 p.m. Friday's Games

Cleveland at Boston, 4 p.m. Oklahoma City at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at Orlando, 7 p.m. Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Indiana at Miami, 8 p.m. Phoenix at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games Memphis at Denver, 5 p.m. Indiana at New Orleans, 7 p.m. Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m. Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m. Brooklyn at Houston, 8 p.m. Cleveland at Minnesota, 8 p.m. New York at Washington, 8 p.m. Philadelphia at Miami, 8 p.m. Dallas at Golden State, 8:30 p.m. Detroit at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m Phoenix at Sacramento, 9 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Portland, 10 p.m. Utah at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m

### **COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

### **BALL ST. 61, PORTLAND 46** PORTLAND (8-7)

Fahrensohn 4-9 0-0 9, Adams 0-1 2-2 2, White 4-12 0-0 8, Diabate 5-10 2-3 12, Porter 1-7 0-0 3, Walker 1-4 2-2 4, Hogland 0-2 0-0 0, Ferebee 1-2 0-0 2, Tryon 1-2 0-0 2, Akwuba 1-3 0-0 2, Harewood 1-1 0-0 2, Watson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-53 6-7 46.

BALL ST. (7-6) El-Amin 5-13 4-4 18, Bumbalough 5-10 0-0 14, Mallers 1-7 0-0 3, Teague 4-12 0-0 8, Thompson 1-3 3-4 5, Acree 2-8 1-1 5, Hazen 2-3 0-0 5, Coleman 1-4 0-0 2, Walton 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 21-62 9-11 61.

Halftime-19-19. 3-Point Goals-Portland 2-17 (Fahrensohn 1-5, Porter 1-5, Adams 0-1, Walker 0-3, White 0-3), Ball St. 10-37 (El-Amin 4-8, Bumbalough 4-9, Hazen 1-2, Mallers 1-7, Thompson 0-1, Coleman 0-2, Teague 0-2, Acree 0-6). Rebounds-Portland 31 (Diabate 10), Ball St. 36 (Acree 6). Assists-Portland 8 (Adams 3), Ball St. 13 (Thompson, Coleman 4). Total Fouls-Portland 11, Ball St.

Boston

**EASTERN CONFERENCE** Atlantic Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
38 22 7 9 53130100

## **NBCSN:** Premier League:

Southampton at Chelsea

12:25 p.m.

**NBCSN:** Premier League: Newcastle United at Manchester United 2:55 p.m.

NBCSN: Premier League: Liverpool at Leicester City 9:30 p.m.

FS1: Liga MX: Club América at Monterrey **TENNIS** 

10 p.m. TENNIS: ATP/WTA: The Hawaii Open, Quarterfinals, Honolulu

Toronto	38	20	14	4	44 133 122
Montreal	37	18	13	6	42 121 117
Florida	36	18	13	5	41 127 121
Buffalo	38	17	14	7	41 115 119
Tampa Bay	35	18	13	4	40 124 111
Ottawa	38	16	18	4	36 106 123
Detroit	38		26		21 82 150
Me	trop	olita	n Di	ivisi	on
	GP	W	L	0T	Pts GF GA
Washington	38	26	7	5	57 137 111
N.Y. Islanders	35	23	9	3	49 105 91

Philadelphia 21 11 4 46120 96 22 13 2 46124102 Pittsburgh 36 37 Carolina 17 14 6 40 98106 17 15 4 38114118 12 19 5 29 91128 Columbus N.Y. Rangers New Jersey WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

54118 99 49134103 44113107 24 8 6 23 11 3 21 14 2 Colorado Winnipeg 20 14 4 44100 97 18 12 6 42126116 18 15 5 41118126 Dallas Nashville Minnesota 15 17 6 36 105 125 Chicago **Pacific Division** 19 15 5 19 15 4 15 18 4 43 104 116 42 124 115 34 96 114 Vancouver Anaheim

16 20 2 34 101 133 15 20 4 34 99 124 38 39 Los Angeles 39 15 20 4 34 99 124 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs. Tuesday's Games No games scheduled Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled Today's Games No games scheduled Friday's Games
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m. Toronto at New Jersey, 7 p.m. Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m.

Minnesota at Colorado, 8 p.m. Pittsburgh at Nashville, 8 p.m. St. Louis at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Calgary at Edmonton, 9 p.m. Vegas at Anaheim, 10 p.m. Los Angeles at San Jose, 10 p.m. Saturday's Games Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.

Colorado at Dallas, 7 p.m. Detroit at Florida, 7 p.m. Nashville at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 7 p.m. Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m. Arizona at Vegas, 10 p.m. Philadelphia at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

### MLB

Free Agent Signings ( (AP) — The 48 free agents who NEW YORK (AP) — The 48 free agents who have signed, with name, position, former club if different, and contract. The contract information was obtained by The AP

AMERICAN LEAGUE BOSTON (1) - Signed Martín Pérez, Ihp, Minnesota, to a \$6.5 million, one-year

contract. CHICAGO (3) — Re-signed José Abreu, CHICAGU (3) — Re-signed Jose Adreu, 1b, to a \$50 million, three-year contract; signed Yasmani Grandal, c, Milwaukee, to a \$73 million, four-year contract; signed; Gio González, Ihp, Milwaukee, to a \$5 million, one-year contract.

DETROIT (2) — Signed Austin Romine, c, New York Yankees, to a \$4.15 million, one-year contract; signed Jonathan Schoop, 2b, Minnesota, to a \$6.1 million, one-year contract.

HOUSTON (2) — Re-signed Joe Smith, rhp. to an \$8 million, two-vear contract; re-signed

Martín Maldonado, c, to a \$7 million, two year contract. LOS ANGELES (2) — Signed Anthony

Rendon, 3b, Washington, to a \$245 million, seven-year contract; signed Julio Teheran, rhp, Atlanta, to a \$9 million, one-year contract.
MINNESOTA (5) — Announced Jake Odorizzi, rhp, accepted \$17.8 million qualifying offer;

re-signed Michael Pineda, rhp, to a \$20 million, two-year contract; signed Alex Avila, c, Arizona, to a \$4.25 million, one-year contract; re-signed Sergio Romo, rhp, to a \$5 million, one-year contract; signed Tyler Clippard, rhp, Cleveland, to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract. - Signed Gerrit Cole, rhp,

Houston, to a \$324 million, nine-year OAKLAND (1) — Re-signed Jake Diekman hp, to a \$7.5 million, two-year contract.
SEATTLE (1) — Signed Kendall Graveman, rhp, Chicago Cubs, to a \$2 million, one-year

TEXAS (2) — Signed Kyle Gibson, rhp, Minnesota, to a \$28 million, three-year contract; signed Jordan Lyles, rhp,

Milwaukee, to a \$16 million, two-year TORONTO (1) -- Signed Tanner Roark, rhp,

Oakland, to a \$24 million, two-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE ARIZONA (2) — Signed Stephen Vogt, c, San Francisco, to a \$3 million, one-year contract; signed Madison Bumgarner, lhp,

San Francisco, to an \$85 million, five-year

ATLANTA (7) — Re-signed Nick Markakis, of to a \$4 million, one-year contract; re-signed Tyler Flowers, c, to a \$4 million, one-year contract; re-signed Darren O'Day, rhp to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract; signed Will Smith, rhp, San Francisco, to a \$40 million three-year contract; re-signed Chris Martin, rhp, to a \$14 million, two-year contract; signed Travis d'Arnaud, c, Tampa Bay, to a \$16 million, two-year contract; signed Cole Hamels, lhp, Chicago Cubs, to an \$18 million,

one-year contract. CINCINNATI (2) — Signed Mike Moustakas, 3b-2b, Milwaukee, to a \$64 million, four-year contract; signed Wade Miley, Ihp, Houston, to

contract, signed wade wiley, inth, nouston, to a \$15 million, two-y5ear contract.

MILWAUKEE (4) — Signed Brett Anderson, Inp, Oakland, to a \$5 million, one-year contract; signed Avisail García, of, Tampa Bay, to a \$20 million, two-year contract; signed Justin Smoak, 1b, Toronto, to a \$5 million, and verse entracts injured Frie Sogard, 2b, Tampa Bay, to a \$4.5 million, one-vear contract.

one-year contract.

NEW YORK (4) — Re-signed Brad Brach, rhp, to a \$850,000, one-year contract; signed Michael Wacha, rhp, to a \$3 million, one-year contract; signed Rick Porcello, rhp, Boston to a \$10 million, one-year contract; signed Rick Porcello, rhp, Boston to a \$10 million, one-year contract; signed to a \$10 million, one-year contract; signed Dellin Betances, rhp, New York Yankees, to \$10.5 million, one-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA (2) — Signed Zack Wheeler rhp, New York Mets, to a \$118 million, five-

year contractl; signed Didi Gregorius, ss, NY Yankees, to a \$14 million, one-year contract. ST. LOUIS (1) - Re-signed Adam Wainwright, rhp, to a \$5 million, one-yea contract.
SAN DIEGO (1) — Signed Drew Pomeranz, lhp, Milwaukee, to a \$34 million, four-year

WASHINGTON (3) — Re-signed Stephen Strasburg, rhp, to a \$245 million, seven-year contract; re-signed Howie Kendrick, 2b, to a \$6.25 million, one-vear contract; re-signed Yan Gomes, c, to a \$10 million, two-year

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Perfect fit: Playoff teams' in-house hires get it done

BY RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Former Clemson athletic director Terry Don Phillips made a deal with Dabo Swinney when he decided to make him the Tigers head football coach.

"There were people that were very skeptical of that hire," Phillips recently recalled. "I said, 'Dabo, if it don't work out what's going to happen, you come over here and you help me pack up my office. And I'll go over there and I'll pack up your office, and we'll walk out together. Because if it doesn't work out that's exactly what's going to happen.'

Phillips has been retired since 2013 and is hailed as a visionary for seeing the potential in Swinney. The Tigers are 129-30 since Phillips promoted the then-39-year-old wide receivers need anything changed." coach.

Playoff shows that sometimes the best person for the job is someone already in the building.

On Saturday at the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Arizona, Swinney and No. 3 Clemson plays No. 2 Ohio State and first-year Buckeyes coach Ryan Day, who was promoted from offensive coordinator after last season to replace Urban Meyer.

The other semifinal at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta matches No. 1 LSU and No. 4 Oklahoma, schools that also hired from within the last time they were looking for a head football coach. LSU's Ed Orgeron took

a similar path as Swinney, being named interim coach after a midseason firing and then given a long-term contract amid skepticism about his abilities. The Tigers are 32-7 in three full seasons under the 58-year-old Org-

Ohio State's promotion of the 40-year-old Day mimicked what Oklahoma had done 18 months earlier when Bob Stoops surprisingly stepped down in June

2017.

The Sooners smoothly transitioned to Lincoln Riley and have gone 36-5 with three Big 12 championships and three playoff appearances in his three

took the same approach to replacing future Hall of Fame coaches.

"You know, that was our becoming public. circumstance," Ohio State "I asked (Stoops director athletic Gene Smith said. "We really built very good support systems for our football program and set up some good structure. And so when you have somebody in-house that you have a chance to kind of audition, so to speak, it allows you to hire from within and not have somebody come in and, frankly, they want to try and change a lot of things. We didn't

Day arrived at Ohio State This College Football in 2017 after a stint in the NFL, hired by Meyer to be co-offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. It was the next step in Day's goal of one day leading a considers it his job to help assistants with head coaching aspirations to reach those goals.

"So Ryan, for example, he wanted to be a head coach. I'd hoped one day at Ohio transitions were bumpier State, but I didn't know that for sure. So I had him meet with our president," Smith

Day was thrust into the impossible for athletic dijob under unusual circumstances last season. He was named acting head coach for the first three games of the 2017 season after Meyer was suspended by the university for his handling of an assistant coach who had been accused of domestic violence.

The Buckeyes went 3-0 under Day, and when Meyer stepped down after the season Day was the obvious choice.

Riley also demonstrated his leadership abilities at Oklahoma as an assistant.

sive coordinator. Castiglione saw Riley connect with players in an Ohio State and Oklahoma uncanny way during a tu-

Castiglione said he iden-

tified Riley as a possible

successor to Stoops in the

spring of 2015 after being

hired as the Sooners offen-

multuous time on campus that followed a video of a fraternity's racists chants

"I asked (Stoops) directly, 'Is it just me? Am I overreacting or seeing something uniquely special in this guy? Or is it real?' And he said, 'Oh, no. It's definitely real," Castiglione said.

Castiglione figured Riley would move on to a head coaching job at another school and, hopefully, down the road he would be able to hire him back to replace Stoops.

Instead, having Riley around made it easier for Stoops to step away at age

"What you're looking for in your head coach is a leader. And statistics aren't necessarily going to demonstrate that," said Bob Latprogram and Smith said he tinville, a St. Louis-based attorney who represents and advises athletic directors and coaches. "The only way to know that is to actually experience the guy.'

At Clemson and LSU, the because Swinney and Orgeron replaced coaches who were fired

Lattinville said it's almost

rectors to make an internal hire after a coach is fired. "Essentially, what you're saying is everything else is fine, but it's just that the head coach was the problem," Lattinville said.

"And that's really rarely the case.' LSU fired Les Miles four games into the 2016 season. Under Miles, the Tigers won a national title and played for another dur-

ing 11-plus seasons. But they were 19-10 over his last 29 games, including 10-8 in the Southeastern OU athletic director Joe Conference.

WOODS Continued from B1

Woods also required a good deal of inner healing after a mortifying DUI arrest in 2017 that exposed his reli-

ance on painkillers. Through it all, Woods somehow kept nurturing his love for golf. And eventually, he found his game again. He climbed his way back to the top. He had close calls at two majors in 2018 the British Open and PGA Championship — and then won the season-ending Tour Championship, as good a sign as any that, at 43, he could take on the best and win.

But regular tournaments are not the majors, and no major is the Masters.

It was on those hallowed grounds at Augusta National where Woods set the marker, starting a decade of dominance that would redefine the game. He blew away the field by 12 strokes in 1997 to win the first of what has become five green jackets and 15 major titles.

off the 18th green and wrapped himself in a warm embrace with his father, Earl, whose death in 2006 left an undeniable void in the player's life.

On that day, Woods came

Though there had been a handful of close calls between his U.S. Open victory in 2008 and the start of 2019, it was clear that if there was a single course where Woods could conjure the old magic and end a major drought, it would be Augusta National. As four-time champion, Woods built a career on studying every inch of the layout, knowing every fault line and every sneaky twist and turn of the slickest greens on earth.

But where, at one time, ered the course and intimidated the competition, in 2019, he simply outlasted them both. He avoided mistakes while everyone else was making them. Instead of taking a lead into the last day, then never giving anyone a whiff of hope, this was a comeback. He started the day two shots the end.

As AP Golf Writer Doug Ferguson wrote in his wrapup of the final day: "Woods never missed a shot that mattered over the final seven holes, taking the lead with a 5-iron to the fat of the green on the par-5 15th for a two-putt birdie, delivering the knockout with an 8-iron that rode down the ridge by the cup and settled 2 feet away for

birdie on the par-3 16th." When it was over, Woods came to the same spot where he'd met Earl 22 years before. He scooped up his son, Charlie, and held him in a long embrace, then did the same with his 11-year-old daughter, Sam, and mother, Tilda.

"For them to see what it's he might have overpow- like to have their dad win a major championship, I hope that's something they will never forget," Woods said.

Very few golf fans will. And in a sports year dominated by weightier topics, Woods at the Masters stood out — a comeback story that left people smiling at

### **NBA**

Continued from B1 the fourth.

Brand held a state-ofthe-franchise press conference before the game and

preached chemistry and continuity would eventually get the Sixers among the best in the East, a conference many pundits picked them to win. "We are going to get there," Brand said before the game. "Home-court

advantage is important

but having Joel healthy in

the playoff in May, June,

that is important to us. We

could still grow into a team

that could be a No. 1 seed."

sure played like one. **TIP-INS** 

by 29 and held only an early three-point lead.

**76ers:** Embiid had his seventh game this season with 30 points and 10 rebounds. He scored 20 points before halftime for the second time this season. ... Simmons had 15 points and 14 assists.

**BANNER TIME** Bucks guard Donte DiVincenzo admired the 2016 and 2018 Villanova national championship banners that hang in the

rafters. The former Wild-

Four Most Outstanding Player in the '18 title run. 'There's two of them Bucks: The Bucks trailed things. That's tough," he

For a game, the 76ers cats star was named Final

### TRADE MARKET

"I always look at opportunities to improve the team. That is my job to make sure Brett and the group have the pieces to compete for a championship. Right now, I am definitely encouraged," Brand said.

### **UP NEXT**

**Bucks:** Play Friday at Atlanta.

**76ers**: Open a four-game trip Friday at Orlando.

Notre Dame (10-2) vs. lowa State (7-5), Noon (ABC)

**NFL** 

# Arizona's Kyler Murray learning the ways of NFL

**BY DAVID BRANDT** 

TEMPE, Ariz. — Quarterback Kyler Murray spent his rookie season with the Arizona Cardinals dealing with issues big and small: Becoming a leader, reading defenses, studying film and knowing when to use his speed.

Even where to put his Air-Pods on Sunday mornings so he doesn't forget them and wreck his pregame routine.

"I was already like five minutes away from the house," Murray said with a wry smile, adding it was too late to turn around. "It was tough. That was a tough morning."

It was one of his few bad ahead in 2020.

moments in a promising season for the 22-year-old, who was selected by the Cardinals with the top pick despite being short for an NFL quarterback at 5-foot-10. His height hasn't been an issue through 15 games and he's mostly thrived under firstyear coach Kliff Kingsbury and his "Air Raid"-style offense.

The Cardinals are in a good mood these days after winning two straight games against the Browns and Seahawks and improving to 5-9-1 for the season. The surge came too late to get into the playoff race, but there's hope within the organization that better days are

Kingsbury and Murray have grown together throughout the past four months, learning how to communicate and work through the game plan so that the Cardinals are at their best on Sundays. The 40-year-old coach said Murray — who many describe as friendly but a little introverted — is slowly learning the difficult task of becoming the face of an organization.

"I think until you're in that seat and feel that type of allencompassing pressure each and every day, you don't know what it is," Kingsbury said. "Then you have a bunch of grown millionaires looking at you for direction

carry yourself, and that's a lot to walk into. I just think the comfort level of being able to handle that every day and that expectation on him every day.

"This franchise goes as he goes, whether it's in a meeting or at practice or in a game. I think he's growing into that."

He's also growing into quite a quarterback when it comes to things on the field. He's thrown for 3,397 yards, 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions while also running for 544 yards and four touch-

He tweaked his right hamstring in a win against Seattle and Kingsbury said Murray and leadership and how you is "day to day" for the season

finale against the Los Angeles Rams. Even if he can't receiver Larry Fitzgerald, play on Sunday, his impact has already been noticed: He was selected as a Pro Bowl alternate last week.

Murray — as usual — took the news in stride.

"I've always been a levelheaded guy," Murray said. "I've had a lot of accolades throughout my career, but that hasn't really changed me. I know that comes with the winning. If we win, a lot of guys are going to be noticed. That's my main focus is winning at the end of the they get recognized. It's obviously a great deal individually, but I'm trying to win."

Murray's favorite target escape with his feet.

this season has been veteran who has 71 catches for 759 yards and four touchdowns. He has played with some great quarterbacks during his 16 seasons and says Murray has every chance to be just as good, if not better.

Fitzgerald said "playing quarterback in the National Football League is the hardest thing to do in sports" and that Murray's physical talent and maturity have allowed him to have success imme-

"He doesn't really get too day. If guys get recognized, high or too low," Fitzgerald said. "He has unbelievable confidence in his ability to make throws and be able to

NFL

# 49ers-Seahawks showdown for NFC West is night game

**BY BARRY WILNER** 

The NFC West will be decided Sunday night in the NFL's final game of the regular season. Too bad only one of the participants has anything close to its full side.

San Francisco (12-3) visits Seattle and the winner takes the division and possibly even more. But the Seahawks are severely undermanned on defense and in the offensive backfield. So much so that they dug into their past to bulk up their running game.

Marshawn Lynch brings Beast Mode back to the Pacific Northwest after the Seahawks' backfield was decimated by injuries.

"What I needed to hear from him is where his heart is. Is he in it and does he want to go for it? Which he totally does," Seattle coach Pete Carroll says. "He's worked to prove that. I don't doubt him one bit about that. He's very sincere about how he presents himself to this game and it's very important to him to be at his best and do well, and he's going to do everything he can to make that happen."

Lynch last played in Seattle in January 2016. If he is in a modicum of shape, he could contribute as Seattle seeks a better spot in the postseason.

The Niners, meanwhile, will earn home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs should they win.

"It's going to be a 60-minute game," quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo says. You have to have your mind ready for that. When you get to these big games, two good football teams, it's always going to go up until the last whistle, and we've had multiple experiences this year like that.'

San Francisco, ranked third in the AP Pro32, is a 3-point choice over No. 7 Seattle.

49ERS, 24-17

Week 17 always is a difficult read with several teams likely to sit key players as they prepare for the playoffs. A rule of thumb during the regular season of usually going with the

better roster doesn't apply because, well, clubs with the better rosters aren't necessarily playing those guys.

### No. 5 Green Bay (minus 91/2) at No. 31 Detroit

Packers have to play their guys for shot at NFC home-field advantage. BEST BET: PACKERS, 30-13

### No. 24 New York Jets (plus 31/2) at No. 8 Buffalo

Bills are set at fifth seed in AFC UPSET SPECIAL: JETS, 23-20

### No. 11 Philadelphia (minus 4½) at No. 28 New York Giants

After three gutsy victories in succession, can't see Eagles not succeeding

**EAGLES**, 24-20

### No. 14 Pittsburgh (minus 2) at No. 1 Baltimore

Steelers can sneak into postseason with win against resting Ravens. STEELERS, 19-15

### No. 13 Tennessee (minus 41/2) at No. 10 Houston

Titans deny Steelers sliding in through playoff's back door with their

TITANS, 21-19

### No. 29 Miami (plus 151/2) at No. 6 New England

Dolphins showed lots of moxie by winning four games with weak roster. PATRIOTS, 31-14

### No. 2 New Orleans (minus 13) at No. 27 Carolina

Will Michael Thomas catch 200 passes in 2020 season? Or against Panthers this Sunday? SAINTS, 35-13

### No. 25 Los Angeles Chargers (plus 7 1-2) at No. 4 Kansas City

Chiefs suddenly have a defense. Will it hold up in postseason? **CHIEFS 26-15** 

### No. 30 Washington (plus 101/2) at No. 15 Dallas

Jerry's guys will rue the opportunities they blew this season. **COWBOYS**, 20-16

### No. 17 (tie) Chicago (plus 7) at No. 9 Minnesota

Vikings know they will be wild card. Where they will play, who knows? VIKINGS, 20-17

### No. 22 Arizona (plus 7) at No. 12 Los Angeles Rams

If Bears weren't NFL's biggest flop, then maybe Rams were in 2019. RAMS, 29-23

### No. 23 Cleveland (minus 21/2) at No. 32 Cincinnati

In some ways, Browns' season was uglier than Bengals' campaign. BROWNS, 30-17

### No. 17 (tie) Indianapolis (minus 3) at No. 26 Jacksonville

Never could figure out Colts this year.

COLTS, 22-16

### No. 20 Atlanta (plus 1) at No. 16 Tampa Bay

Never could figure out Buccaneers, either. In another sad season for the Falcons after that recent Super Bowl bust, they salvage a win. FALCONS, 32-30

### No. 19 Oakland (plus 31/2) at No. 21 Denver

In finale representing Bay Area, Raiders leave good memory. RAIDERS, 20-19

2019 RECORD:

Last Week: 8-8 against spread, 9-7

straight up. Season Totals: 125-110-4 against

spread, 142-95-1 straight up. Best Bet: 12-4 against spread, 13-3

Upset special: 7-9 against spread, 7-9 straight up.

### **COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

## Sooners count on experience and speed to handle LSU's offense

BY GEORGE HENRY Associated Press

ATLANTA — Oklahoma linebacker Kenneth Murray knows the Sooners' defense is preparing for its toughest challenge of the season and believes experience on the our story in 2019," Grinch national stage will be a big

No. 1 LSU (13-0) enters the College Football Playoff semifinal in Saturday's Peach Bowl leading the nation in yards per game and red-zone production. The Tigers are the first Southeastern Conference team with a 4,000-yard passer — Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow — a 1,200-yard rusher and two 1,000-yard receiv-

though, that No. 4 Oklahoma (12-1) has plenty of momentum as the Big 12 are familiar with this setting after making it to football's final four for the third straight year and the fourth time in five seasons.

"I think it's going to be extremely critical for us to use that experience to our advantage for this game," Murray said. "I think we've been in a lot of big games as a group, and I think it's just going to be extremely critical for us to just stay true to us and understand that if we just do our jobs, our jobs are enough to get done what we want to get done.'

LSU's offensive line is arguably the nation's best, but if the Tigers have an occasional weakness up front, it's in pass protection. LSU ranks 77th in average sacks allowed, and Burrow went down 28 times after getting sacked 35 times last season.

But Oklahoma must knock off the Tigers without two of its top players. Sacks leader Ronnie Perkins is suspended for the game, and strong safety Delarrin Turner-Yell, second on the team in tackles, broke his collarbone in practice last week. Then there is starting nickel back Brendan Radley-Hiles, whose status is uncertain with a head injury.

The Sooners are no stranger to overcoming injuries this season.

Senior end Kenneth Mann was lost for the season against Iowa State early last month. Defensive back Tre Norwood has missed the entire year. Linebacker Jon-Michael Terry started six games before he went down, and linebacker Caleb Kelly missed the first 10.

Still, replacing Perkins will be tought. His primary backup, Marcus Stripling, has one sack in 13 games, so one possible replacement could be Jalen Redmond, who shares a tackle spot with LaRon Stokes but played end last season. His 5.5 sacks this year are second on the team, and he had 1.5 in the Big 12 championship victory over Baylor.

First-year defensive coordinator Alex Grinch has grown accustomed to filling in the gaps, so he expects other players to step up and play well.

"It's kind of been part of said of the injuries. "But we stick to what we do defensively. We feel like what we ask these guys to do on a week-to-week basis, regardless of opponent, puts them in the situation to be successful."

The setbacks have hampered the Sooners, but LSU offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger still sees plenty of talent on the opposing

"This might be the fastest Murray is confident, defense we face," Ensminger said. "They can run. Their defensive line can run, their linebackers can run, their champion, and the Sooners secondary can run. They present problems with their speed. And so it's protection first. You got to be able to run the football against this team. Nobody has. You put up explosive runs on tape, and they're not very many of them, so it's got to be a good

> mixture.' The Sooners' quickness will affect his play selection,

"I think you have to be a little bit faster with this defense as far as calling plays and getting it in and let's go," Ensminger said. "It will be a challenge."

Oklahoma has made considerable improvement under Grinch, moving from 119th to ninth nationally in third-down percentage, from 57th to 11th in tackles for a loss and up 90 spots to 24th in total yards.

Speed is the key, and Murray moves quickly. His 155 tackles ranked second in the Big 12 and were the most by a Sooner since Curtis Lofton in 2007.

'I think one of our goals this season was to have one of the fastest defenses in the country," Murray said. "So I think that's something that's been presented to us by our coaches and that's something that we truly try to em-

"I think when coach Grinch first came in, he talked about straining to the ball. I think early on in the process, we found ourselves straining to the ball and not really understanding that if we strain to the ball, it really can become a weapon and really become our identity.'

The players up front like to bring it, too.

"It's one thing when your fast guys are doing it, but even being a D-lineman, it's a sense of pride that comes into playing at a high level consistency," said nose guard Neville Gallimore, adding "that "and that goes back to coach Grinch and all the defensive coaches just kind of instilling that that's not just something you do. It's a requirement.'

**NBA** 

# Celtics get past Raptors, 118-102

**BY IAN HARRISON** 

TORONTO — Boston's Jaylen Brown celebrated Christmas with something he had never enjoyed before: a road win at Toronto.

Walker had 22 and the Celtics beat the Raptors 118-102 Wednesday in the first Christmas Day NBA game played in Canada. "It was good to get a win here on

Brown scored 30 points, Kemba

Christmas," said Brown, who made five 3-pointers and shot 10 for 13 from the field. "I've never won here period, so it was great to just get one." Enes Kanter had 12 points and 11 rebounds as the Celtics snapped an

eight-game losing streak north of the border and became the first Atlantic Division opponent to win in Toronto in more than four years. The Celtics have won four straight

to improve to 8-2 in December.

Boston's Gordon Hayward returned to the starting lineup after missing the past three games because of a sore left foot. He scored 14 points in 26 min-

"It's still a little sore but it's playable," Hayward said. "It's good, it's

Fred VanVleet scored 27 points in the Raptors' second straight loss, and Chris Boucher had a career-high 24.

"We weren't quite physical enough,

I thought, for most stretches of the

game," Toronto coach Nick Nurse

The Raptors are 2-2 since losing center Marc Gasol (left hamstring), guard Norman Powell (left shoulder) and forward Pascal Siakam (groin) to injuries. Nurse had no update on the status of the trio, but acknowledged their absence is making life difficult.

now," Nurse said. "It's tough." Toronto had gone an NBA-record 34 games between home losses to di-

"Scoring is not very easy for us right

vision foes. The Raptors' last home loss to an Atlantic team was a 111-109 defeat to the New York Knicks on Nov. 10, 2015. Kyle Lowry scored 14 points and

Serge Ibaka had 12 for Toronto. The Raptors shot 8 for 23 from 3-point Kanter arrived dressed in a black t-

shirt that read 'Freedom for ALL' in white letters. He played outside the United States for the first time since visiting Toronto with the Knicks on Nov. 10, 2018. The Raptors jumped out to a 10-0

lead as the Celtics missed their first five shots of the game, leading to a Boston timeout with 10:03 left in the opening quarter. After the stoppage, the Celtics outscored Toronto 28-9 to lead 28-19 after one. "They hit us early but I thought we

recovered well," Celtics coach Brad

Stevens said.

Brown made all five of his field goal attempts in the third, including three from long range, and scored 16 points. Boston led 88-69 through three quarters.

### **TIP-INS**

Celtics: G Marcus Smart (eye infection) traveled to Toronto but was not active. Smart has missed the past seven games. ... F Grant Williams dislocated his right index finger in the second quarter but returned before halftime. ... F Jayson Tatum shot 1 for 10 in the first half. He finished 5 for 18 and scored 11 points. ... Boston scored 11 points off seven Toronto turnovers in the first.

Raptors: Toronto made a seasonworst seven 3-pointers in a Dec. 9 win at Chicago. ... Toronto's only previous Christmas Day game was a 102-94 loss at New York in 2001.

### **HOME SWEET HOME** The road team won a Boston-Toron-

to game for the first time in 13 meet-**HOT SHOTS** 

### The Celtics shot 46 for 92 (50%). Boston is 8-0 this season when shooting 50% or better.

**UP NEXT** Celtics: Host Cleveland on Friday **Raptors:** Visit Boston on Saturday

## Response to gender identity clouds family get-togethers

**DEAR ABBY:** We are expecting our first child after many years of struggling with infertility. We are overjoyed,

to say the least. I have a wonderful **Dear** parent who used to be my father but who now identifies as a woman I'll call "Grace." She's a supportive, loving, wonderful parent,



and always was. The problem is, the rest of the family has yet to see her transition. They are aware of what has happened, but are not comfortable with it. One family member keeps insisting that Grace is not transgender, just "confused." She says that if she ever saw Grace dressed as a woman, she would laugh.

When it comes to a celebration for our bundle of joy, how do I handle this? I can't imagine having the celebration without Grace, and I wouldn't dream of asking her to dress as a male because I know how uncomfortable she would be. But I'm afraid if she attends, none of the other family will come because they are so uncomfortable. – Transparent In Nevada

TRANSPARENT: Grace is not "confused." People do not change their gender identity on a lark. The transition is time-consuming and difficult. Grace deserves to be treated with compassion and common courtesy. Make this clear to your family members. If you feel that one or more of them would be so rude as to ridicule your parent, strike them from your guest list.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband has not been in good health for years. He had an accident in 2007 in which his left arm was broken. The doctor did many surgeries over seven years, but he had to have it amputated in 2014.

Ten months ago, he suffered a debilitating stroke in the left lobe of his brain. He now has aphasia, the inability to use his right hand and arm, a loss of balance and he cannot walk unassisted. He must have help in all areas of daily living. I placed him in a rehab center, then into a nursing home.

The problem is, I feel so guilty about leaving him there. He isn't happy and he blames me for keeping him there. I visit as often as possible, but it isn't often enough for him I am sure. I am so disappointed. This is not the life that I had planned. Would you please tell me how to stop blaming myself, and how to accept this situation? - Sorry In The South

**DEAR SORRY:** My heart goes out to you and your husband. Not everyone is so fortunate as to live the life they have planned. If you haven't already done so, it may be time to reach out to your Area Agency on Aging and talk to someone there about what emotional support services may be available near you. The Eldercare Locator, which is sponsored by the U.S. Administration on Aging, is another resource.

Counseling can help you learn to accept this "new normal" and lessen your feelings of guilt for making a decision that, while not pleasant, is what your husband now requires so his needs are met. It will, however, be your responsibility to stay close and ensure that happens.

**DEAR ABBY:** There is conflict between two of my four adult children. They no longer speak to one another over some silly, childish issues. Should I, as the parent, interfere and try to resolve these issues? - Peacemaker In

Philadelphia DEAR **PEACEMAKER:** Resist the urge to "interfere." Your desire to patch things up is understandable, but because your children are adults, it should be up to them to re-

solve their differences without your intervention. Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby

at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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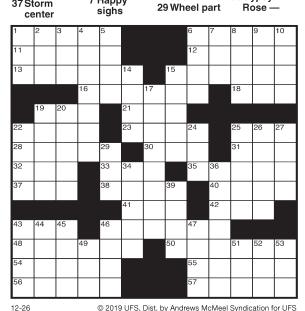
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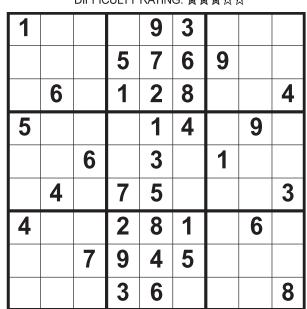
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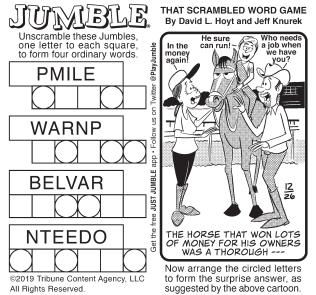
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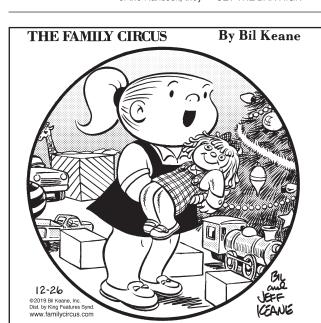


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cannot point Billy to a time and Graham place, I am My Answer not really saved. Is this

true? – C.S. While A: there is only one way to salvation in Christ Jesus (John 14:6),

people come to the moment of salvation in many different settings. Some conversions are sudden and dramatic, a radical change from one way of living to another. As Saul of Tarsus approached the city of Damascus on a mission to arrest followers of Jesus, a brilliant light suddenly blinded him and he heard the voice of the Lord (Acts 22:7). From that moment on, Saul received the

revelation of Christ and be-

once rejected.

Others come to Christ over time. The apostle Pe- wavering and uncertain at first and only later coming to a firm commitment to Jesus. The Bible doesn't give the details. The important thing is not the circumstances of how we come to when we give our lives to Christ, but that we do come, and that we are sure we are now trusting Christ for our salvation.

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